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14 September 1983

NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

EFFORTS TO MEDIATE BETWEEN PLO, SYRIA DISCUSSED

Riyadh AL-YAMAMAH in Arabic No 761, 27 Jul 83, pp 42-44

[Article by the political editor of AL-YAMAMAH: "Solving Arab Disputes: Is the Key Arab...Or Russian?"]

[Text] The purpose of the Arab reconciliation committee composed of His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the minister of foreign affairs, Dr Ahmed Taleb al-Ibrahimi, the Algerian minister of foreign affairs, and Mr Chadli Kleibi, the secretary general of the Arab League, is to undertake a comprehensive reconciliation effort which is not related to particular events or developments. This is because the political atmosphere, unfortunately, is not free of points of constant tension. Therefore, the existence of the committee and the continuation of its work are matters which the Arab situation demands.

The committee was formed by a decision of the Arab summit conference which was held in 'Amman. The hot issues then were, on the one hand, the disputes between Syria and Jordan, and on the other, the conflicts between Iraq and Syria. In addition, there was the situation in Lebanon, though this was before the recent developments which began with the Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

There is no doubt that Syrian-Palestinian relations are currently the hottest point. Thus, it has been clear that the work and activity of the committee these days must focus on this point and on related developments on the Palestinian scene in the Biqa'. These events were to a certain extent a reflection of the crisis in relations between PLO officials and Syrian officials.

Luckily for the committee, it began its activity after a cooling-off period in Palestinian-Syrian relations had begun as a result of Arab and international efforts and pressures, most of which were exerted on Damascus. The goal of this pressure was to soften its attitude toward Mr Yasir 'Arafat, in addition to lessening its support for the military forces within Fatah which had rebelled against his leadership.

There is another factor which will help the committee in its activity, which it just began a few days ago. It is that the Palestinian leadership has gone ahead and dismissed the two officers whose appointment to high offices at the head of the Palestinian forces in Lebanon led to the emergence of the rebel movement within Fatah last May 9th. Fatah is the principle movement in the PLO.

Mr Abu Jihad, the deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian forces, has decided to remove Abu Hashim, commander of the al-Karamah brigade, appointing in his place Major 'Ala'-al-Din Husayn. He has also removed Col Hajj Isma'il, one of the brigade commanders in North Lebanon, appointing in his place Major 'Abud.

Despite the fact that the rebel group, headed by Abu Musa, issued no quick comment after these dismissals, Mr Abu Jihad said the Fatah movement had begun to emerge from its crisis, since it was well known that the rebels led by Abu Musa had accused Abu Hashim and Hajj Isma'il of having left their positions in South Lebanon during the Israeli invasion last summer. Abu Musa himself demanded that they be tried instead of promoted.

Abu Jihad's statement that the Fatah movement has begun to emerge from its crisis is not too unrealistic, following the dismissal of these two officers who were opposed by the rebels. In addition, administrative and political reforms have been carried out which have not been announced in detail. The goal of these measures is to satisfy the rebels and make possible a rapprochement with them, so that a final, mutual understanding can be arrived at which will put a stop to the Fatah crisis. In addition, such an understanding will allow both Palestinian blood and the coherence of the resistance in these difficult circumstances to be saved.

Some have explained the recent measures adopted by the leadership as a great retreat in the face of the rebels. In truth, no matter what has been said about these measures, it is certain that Mr Yasir 'Arafat is using all his possibilities, capabilities and authority to defuse the bomb within Fatah.

What concerns him above and beyond all else is the unity of Fatah, which forms the spinal column of the PLO. Therefore, he has avoided entering into a personal confrontation with Abu Musa and other rebel leaders. Indeed, he has reproached them only for seeking aid from non-Palestinian forces for their rebellion and its expansion, which then led to the great breach in Syrian-Palestinian relations. Mr Yasir 'Arafat realizes on the basis of experience that the dispute between Damascus and the PLO, no matter what its causes and its real nature, will result in untold harm being done to the Arab cause in general and the Palestinian cause in particular. Therefore, he is now doing everything in his power to remove the tension which exists in the relations between the PLO and the Syrian government. The best proof of that is that he cut short his Arab tour last week and returned in haste to Tunis, that he might know the results of the efforts exerted with Syria by a Palestinian delegation, especially since some Arab states took part in the efforts. The delegation visited Damascus and then returned to Tunis.

At any rate, one can say that the activity of the Arab reconciliation committee, which consists of Saudi Arabia, Algeria and the Arab League, has begun all in all at the most suitable and best time with respect to the issue of the Palestinian-Syrian dispute, for this dispute's temperature has fallen a great deal, after peaking in the aftermath of both the Syrian government's decision to expel Mr Yasir 'Arafat from Syrian territory and to prevent him from entering the country again, and of the subsequent clashes between Palestinians on the Biqa' plain.

The secretary general of the Arab League, Mr Chadli Kleibi, has begun his consultations with the Syrian government, in preparation for the task which he expects to perform in Damascus with President Hafiz al-Asad, in order to implement the decisions of the Arab reconciliation committee. The committee met at the end of last week in Tunis, with His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Ahmed Taleb al-Ibrahimi, the Algerian minister of foreign affairs, and Mr Chadli Kleibi, the secretary general of the Arab League, all in attendance.

At the end of its meeting, the committee decided to have the secretary general of the Arab League contact Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Mr Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO executive committee, in order to remove the tension present in relations between Damascus and the PLO. Mr. Kleibi made it clear that recent developments in the Arab world have led Saudi Arabia, the Republic of Algeria and the general secretariat of the Arab League to agree that the activity of the Arab reconciliation committee must be renewed. The committee was formed as a result of the resolutions of the 'Amman summit which called for the creation of committees to treat the situation on the Arab level.

The secretary general of the Arab League made it clear that the committee had done prompt work embodied in two cases. The first was an investigation of a series of problems having to do with the relations of a number of states. The second was embodied in the composition of a document containing a series of regulations for organizing the way, manner and ethics of cooperation and intercourse between the League's member states on the bilateral level. At its last meeting in Tunis, the committee agreed on the final form of a project regulating joint Arab action and the style of cooperation between states on the bilateral level. Mr Kleibi mentioned that the last difficulties in this area had been overcome. He announced that this document will be presented to the next Arab summit conference, which will be held next November in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Moreover, the committee decided to concentrate its activity and interests on Syrian-Palestinian relations, and it reviewed all efforts and attempts made so far. The secretary general made clear that, in view of the importance of Syria as an essential confrontation state, as well as the importance of its role in the Arab-Israeli conflict and the significance of Syrian-Palestinian solidarity, the committee had decided to have him be active in this area. He is to contact His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and Mr 'Arafat, after which he is to submit his report on his contacts and activities to the committee at its next meeting, which is to be held at the first opportunity.

During his short stay in Tunis, His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal was quite active. He attended the committee meeting and met with Mr Yasir 'Arafat.

An official Palestinian source told AL-YAMAMAH that the two spoke during their meeting about the conflict between the PLO and Syria and the efforts being made by His Majesty King Fahd bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz to repair Syrian-Palestinian relations.

The same source made it clear that Mr 'Arafat and all the other Palestinian leaders were delighted by the efforts being made by His Majesty King Fahd and the kingdom, as well as by the support, both material and moral, which the Palestinian revolution always receives from Saudi Arabia.

The Palestinian official added that: "We are certain that the continuous work being done by His Majesty King Fahd has contributed to a great degree to quieting the situation. If God wills, this will be but the forerunner of the achievement of a brotherly solution.

It has been learned from another source that Mr 'Arafat and His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal discussed the resolutions which were issued by the Arab reconciliation committee. Mr 'Arafat gave the prince a letter for King Fahd which deals with the development of the situation in the Biqa'.

AL-YAMAMAH learned that Mr Kleibi will leave Tunis this week and head for Damascus, after having received encouragement from Mr 'Arafat during his meeting with him.

It is expected that the Arab reconciliation committee will meet again, as soon as Kleibi returns from Damascus, to learn about his efforts there. Observers at Arab League headquarters in Tunis attach great importance to these reconciliation efforts, as well as to the important role being played by Saudi Arabia. It is believed that the meeting of the Arab reconciliation committee itself is considered an important event, because it indicates that the attempts at reconciliation which have been made for some weeks are progressing in a manner that allows a public initiative and efforts such as those the League's secretary has been entrusted with to be undertaken.

We expect that the coming days will prove that the key to solving Arab conflicts is in Arab hands, and not in the hands of others, no matter what their contacts and ties are, and regardless of how great a presence they have on the Arab scene.

The Arab solution will be in the Arab interest in all circumstances. This is what we need. As for solutions arranged by Moscow or Havana, they are in their interests and conform to their thoughts. It is enough for us to know that this solution contains such a fundamental weak point.

12224
CSO: 4404/510

POLITICAL GROUPS COMMENT ON RECOGNITION BY UN OF 'ARMENIAN GENOCIDE'

Istanbul JAMANAK in Armenian 5 Aug 83 p 1

[Text] The Paris LE MONDE says in its 31 July 1983 issue:

Representatives of the two major Armenian organizations in France, the Armenian Revolutionary Federation and the Committee for the Defense of the Armenian Cause, have declared as "distressing" the statement on 11 July by French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson in connection with the Armenian question. These representatives expressed their disappointment with this statement at a press conference they held in Paris on 29 July.

Cheysson had said that "modern Turkey cannot be held responsible for acts committed against the Armenian community under the Ottoman Empire."

Nevertheless, the leaders of the two organizations--Henry Papazian on behalf of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation and Ara Krikorian on behalf of the Armenian Cause Committee--expressed their gratitude to a number of governments, including that of France, for their efforts to have the Armenian genocide of 1915 officially recognized in the UN.

They stressed that these diplomatic efforts must succeed, that otherwise the intensification of terrorist acts will be inevitable and that such acts may upset the international balance of power.

Mr Krikorian said: "If the genocide is not recognized by the UN in the near future, we will find ourselves in an environment of violence which will be hard to check in the future." Speaking about the fighters of Lisbon, Mr Papazian said that his party bows before the courage, selflessness and sacrifice of these five Armenian young men who wanted to express their anger before the entire world for its deep silence over the Armenian question.

Mr Krikorian added that "this determined sacrifice has a special meaning and sets and example for the international community." Mr Krikorian said: "This sacrifice shows to the world's justice halls, governments, politicians and press that there are only two ways to resolve the Armenian question: the path of violence and that of diplomacy."

The paper adds following this article that a special ceremony will be held in the Armenian church in (Jeangoujon) in Paris at 10:30 am on 10 August to commemorate the young men who died in Lisbon.

TURKISH MISSIONS 'ALERTED' UPON THREAT FROM ARMENIAN TERRORISTS

Istanbul JAMANAK in Armenian 6 Aug 83 p 1

[Text] Ankara (HURRIYET)--It has been revealed that Armenian terrorists are preparing to attack our less-protected ambassadors in Europe and our representatives in countries outside Europe and the United States. According to information obtained from well-informed sources in Ankara, Turkish embassies in Rome and Brussels have been in a state of alert for some time following threats of terrorist attacks. Emergency measures have been taken in and around the Turkish embassy in Madrid against possible Armenian attacks. Noting that Armenian terrorists are preparing to attack primarily small Turkish missions with limited staff, the sources said: "There is no place where threats have not been issued." There is concern that the Armenian criminals will occupy one of our less important missions and try to implement the plan they could not implement in Lisbon. The terrorists are determined to wage "long-term" propaganda against Turkey by occupying missions or kidnaping embassy personnel. The Thai police informed our embassy in Bangkok a few days ago that a number of Armenian terrorists may have infiltrated into the country.

Meanwhile, the HURRIYET correspondent called the Turkish embassy in Bangkok and learned that the situation is normal in the embassy and that extra security measures have been taken. Embassy official Tekin Ozyurt said:

"We were first informed about the issue by a news item in the Bangkok POST. Then the police warned us interpreting the news item as an intelligence report. So far we have received no threats, but we are prepared for any type of incident. Our security measures are flawless."

According to reports reaching Ankara, the Armenian terrorists will also attempt to "hijack airplanes." It is believed that, by doing that, the Armenians plan to hurt our tourist industry and to wage long-term propaganda directed toward the world public opinion.

Cooperation between the Turkish security organization and Western intelligence services against Armenian terrorism is finally taking shape. The security organizations of Britain, Spain, Belgium and the Netherlands have been sharing all their information on this issue with Ankara. However, the French police has surprisingly not given any substantive information to Turkey in connection with the investigation on the Orly incident.

REASONS FOR ARMENIAN ARMED OPERATIONS CITED BY LIBERATION

Beirut AZTAG in Armenian 2 Aug 83 pp 5,7

[Article from 29 July 1983 issue of LIBERATION]

[Text] The emergence of the Armenian armed struggle can be explained by the futility of incessant diplomatic efforts made for the past 70 years to have the genocide of 1915 recognized. But if we look at the issue more closely, we do not find any written traces of those efforts. The history of the Armenian diplomacy to win international recognition for the genocide appears to be the history of a nation which is unable to make a complaint, even a futile one.

The greatest victory and the greatest defeat came at the very beginning. In 1920, in the reception hall of the Sevres lace works, the allied powers--Great Britain, France, Italy, Japan and others--signed with the Turkish government the Treaty of Sevres which recognized the independence and sovereignty of the Armenian state, but which was not ratified. Three years later, in 1923, the same powers signed the Treaty of Lausanne which, simply and explicitly, remained silent about the Armenian question. The situation had changed between these two dates: Turkey had turned from vanquished into victor and the Western powers were already trying to prevent Turkey from coming under the influence of the Soviet Union. The result was that the Armenians were condemned to the dungeon of oblivion.

The uprooted nation was entering a period of desolation. The League of Nations expressed heartfelt wishes for the Armenians during its regular sessions. In 1921, the League of Nations came out in favor of an independent national homeland for the Armenians. But in 1924, in its fifth session, that same organization sufficed by voting relief aid for refugees with an eye to resettling them and stressed "the indispensability of preserving the national existence of the Armenians, hoping that a homeland will be set up for them."

Meanwhile, circled by their traditional political parties--in particular, the Armenian Revolutionary Federation [ARF]--the Armenians were trying to survive without losing their national identity. In the beginning, the nightmare continued for the survivors of the genocide who were torn between the calamity that had struck the families of each one of them and the idea of getting at least some moral compensation from the international community. Even so, a wave of anti-Turkish terrorism surged in the 1920's.

It can be said that the Armenian diaspora succeeded in organizing itself by 1945. It was grouped around various poles in Lebanon, the United States and France. As a poor but persistent community it was to a certain extent able to become part of the host countries.

Meanwhile, appeals continued to friendly governments to have the genocide perpetrated against the Armenians recognized. The ARF is particularly well known for its extensive and persistent efforts, which turned out to be futile. It is easy to see that these appeals crashed against the indifferent policies of governments. After all, Turkey had become one of the West's shields against the Soviet Union.

It is possible that the genocide perpetrated by the Nazis and the subsequent Nuremberg trials--which reaffirmed the concept of crimes against humanity--revived the Armenian tragedy. In 1945, the Armenian National Front submitted a memorandum to the governments of the leading powers and demanded the reinstatement of the Treaty of Sevres. That move, as always, also remained futile.

After that the Armenians were once again condemned to oblivion and their name was erased from the register of history. Twenty years later, in 1965, an Armenian delegation submitted a memorandum to the United Nations. That year, the 50th anniversary of the Armenian genocide, massive demonstrations were held in the Armenian diaspora as well as in Soviet Armenia. But as soon as the demonstrations were over, the Armenians were once again forgotten. Starting in 1965, delegations and memoranda paraded before the United Nations, UNESCO and the governments of major countries. These calls, too, remained unanswered.

In 1974, there was a great surprise: The UN Human Rights Commission, in its well-known Article 30, referred to the Armenian genocide of 1915 as "the first genocide of the 20th century." However, remaining faithful to the policy endorsed by successive governments in Ankara since the genocide, the Turkish government protested and forced the international organization--which has always remained faithful to its original treachery--to review the said article. The issue of the Armenian genocide no longer existed.

A year later, the three principal Armenian parties--the ARF, the Hunchak Social Democratic Party and the Democratic Liberal Party--formed a special chairmanship committee on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the genocide to have the genocide recognized and to implement a program to recover the lost Armenian lands. But it was already too late for these traditional organizations: That same year the concept of armed struggle was officially announced in Beirut.

9588
CSO: 4605/123

NEWS CONCERNING BOMB PLANTED AT ATATURK'S BIRTHPLACE DENIED

Istanbul JAMANAK in Armenian 5 Aug 83 p 1

[Text] Athens (MILLIYET)--It has been revealed that the news to the effect that Armenians have planted a bomb in the house Ataturk was born--which stands next to the Turkish consulate in Thessaloniki--is untrue.

A representative of the Armenian association in Greece said in a statement to TAKHIDHROMOS, Greece's leading weekly, that Armenian terrorism may suffer a complete collapse. Thessaloniki police reported that they received a telephone call on Tuesday to the effect that bombs had been placed in the Turkish consulate in the city and the adjacent house in which Ataturk was born.

By the permission of the Greek police, the consulate and the house, which is now a museum, were searched for bombs by security experts but nothing was found.

Meanwhile, an unidentified representative of the Armenian association in Greece said in a statement to the magazine TAKHIDHROMOS:

"We condemn all violent acts because such acts are having a negative effect on the Armenian cause."

The Associated Press reports from Beirut:

The Armenian terrorists who died in their attempt to blow up the Turkish ambassador's residence in Lisbon have been declared national heroes in Beirut. Armenian terrorists wrote anti-Turkish slogans on the walls of Bourj Hammoud, a Beirut neighborhood where approximately 175,000 Armenians live, saying that the five terrorists who died are "freedom fighters."

The mother of one of the terrorists who died in the Lisbon incident said that whenever she asked her son why he was coming home late he would reply: "I am not a baby."

Nazar Daglian, a 73-year old shoemaker and the father of Vahe Daglian, one of the terrorists in the Lisbon incident, said: "If I had known that my son would do something like that, I would have kissed him in the forehead and I would have prayed to God to help him."

Another Armenian, Onnig Ajemian, said: "I give my five children the example of the heroes who died in Lisbon. I would not feel pained if my children followed their path."

The families of the five terrorists have written a letter to Portuguese authorities, asking for the remains of their sons.

The Armenian-language Beirut daily, AZTAG, said in its editorial:

"You ended your lives, but you did not die. The heroes of Lisbon, you gave your lives for your country and nation. Heroes do not die."

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CSO: 4605/122

PRO-ASALA TURKISH DISSIDENTS REPORTEDLY GET TRAINING IN SYRIA

Istanbul MARMARA in Armenian 5 Aug 83 p 1

[Text] The Toronto STAR has disclosed that ASALA [Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia]--which organizes attacks against Turkey in conjunction with leftist Turkish factions--has formed a common terrorist front.

The Canadian paper says that groups with similar views have gone into action in the mountainous region near the Iraqi border with the aim of launching new attacks against Turkey and that they are undergoing terrorist training in Syria.

According to the STAR, ASALA's training grounds are located near Homs, to the north of the Syrian capital, Damascus.

Among those who come in groups to be trained in this center there are also Turks who oppose the government system in Turkey. The paper says that the Turks who are collaborating with ASALA also include members of the Turkish Communist Party. The STAR says that the maker of the bomb that went off at Orly has been identified as Soner Nayir, an Armenian, and that ASALA has been given a warm reception by the Syrian government.

The STAR alleges that the leader of ASALA, said to have been killed during a bombing incident last summer, is still alive. This person has reportedly been seen and is known by the pseudonym Mihran Mihranian. The paper also says that two billionaire Armenians living in South America are among the major providers of financial support to ASALA. These Armenians reportedly make generous gifts to ASALA.

9588
CSO: 4605/124

SOCIAL CRITIC DISCUSSES INEQUALITY IN INCOMES, OPPORTUNITIES

Cairo AL-SIYASI in Arabic 17 Jul 83 pp 7,11

[Article by 'Abd-al-Sattar Tawilah: "Confronting Our Social Problems: Why Don't We Work?"]

[Text] Last week we talked about the circumstances that have caused the value of work to decline, where the consumer society has brought to prominence a new value, "get it and run," that is, "racketeering," in the sense of making profits or an income without much work, or without any work at all.

We will not talk about the people with [fortunes in the millions, which reproduce like] rabbits, who have realized enormous fortunes in the twinkling of an eye. This gross characterization was the symbol for a brief period of time.

The story of the people we call the parasitic capitalists has become well known, and there has been talk about them even under the cupola of parliament. The course of their lives has become the subject of television serials, radio serials and movies such as "Look out, Gentlemen," "The People at the Top," "Disgrace and Love in the Dungeon" and finally the movie "The Monster."

On the pages of AL-SIYASI and other papers, writers have talked about them and their ways of making quick profits. Indeed, that has been presented in the courts, before the socialist prosecutor and others.

However, there is a kind of racketeering of a common character of which the media and the art forms have reflected almost nothing, except in cases where there has been grumbling about the shortcomings of some tradesmen or their way of behaving.

This type of racketeering has been impregnated by the big masters' quality of racketeering and has started to emulate their style in a narrow context with the goal of becoming big like them someday.

They then in turn have transmitted, and are transmitting, the contagion to the whole broad lawabiding base of the people.

The effect of this "class" has been very serious, for two reasons:

Because it is large and broad, and consists not of a few thousand or even tens of thousands, like the big parasitic capitalists, but has hundreds of thousands, indeed millions.

Second, by virtue of its large number, it is closely attached to all the people, affecting them and afflicting them with the virus, and consequently values are changing and shifting.

We will give some examples of this common type of racketeering.

Take a very ordinary example in your midst, the groups of professionals, in the form of doctors, engineers, lawyers and accountants. These classes have imposed large fees and wages on their services.

We are not accusing all the professionals, just large segments of them.

Doctors who do not go to excess with their fees and plunder from patients nowadays are a rare coin.

Rather, the general characteristic is that the fees, operations and treatment are excessive. Some doctors realize a daily income of no less than 500 pounds in one night, and the unassuming, average doctors are the ones who are satisfied with 50 or 100 pounds. This is a matter of conscience, nothing more, as any satisfied doctor will say.

The doctors charge excessively because they find people who will pay them what they ask. The parasitic class, which earns millions without effort, isn't concerned about the amount it pays.

The [same is true of] engineers, in the era of deeding of apartments, and the fact that buyers are compelled to pay any sum as the price for an apartment, from 40,000 to a quarter million, or even half million, so that the owner of a building earns twice or four times cost, not 20 percent of it as the law specifies.

This is what we saw in the Engineers' Building, when it became apparent that the building cost 6 million pounds and was sold for 13 million. How can we fail to imagine the current struggle that is taking place, in the courtyard of this building, between the power of money and the interests of the masses, since it is a matter of millions to decide to demolish or keep it?

The engineer who supervises the construction of such buildings and senses the outrageous earnings their owners make must demand large sums, and therefore the engineers and proprietors of what are called consulting firms which do decorating for no less than 100,000 pounds, along with their hordes of beautiful secretaries, get tens of thousands of pounds, while they used to get a few thousand in the past. But why shouldn't they get a piece of the cake?

Take the lawyers around you. Litigations in the era of consumer liberalization proceeded to revolve about hundreds of thousands and millions, and many lawyers proceeded to work for percentages!

Therefore the earnings of some lawyers come to 100,000 pounds for a single case. This is well known in the context of our public life, although such lawyers used to get just 1,000 pounds, or at most a few thousand, for cases of greater significance.

The task of the lawyers in the era of consumer liberalization has started to be one of falsifying clients' books so that they can evade taxes, defraud tax officials, and put tax evasion cases to sleep, as happened, for example, in the case of the wealthy person in Alexandria, which we wrote about 6 months ago in the newspaper AL-SIYASI, warning the Ministry of Finance and the Tax Department that this rich person was evading taxes through his massive dealings in lumber.

The truth has become lost, in the midst of figures prepared by accountants' offices, and the government is not getting a single millieme, while this type of accountant gets tens of thousands of pounds!

Take also the professional teachers in your midst. In times past, teachers were a symbol of "misery" and overwork. Today some teachers give lessons for 5 pounds an hour, and sometimes 10. University professors and instructors, and even readers, give courses for 1,000 or 2,000 pounds.

There are parasites and ordinary overwrought fathers who pay, especially now that the level of education has declined to a level that was current only in the Ottoman era!

Private schools in turn have entered the race and their tuition has become many times greater than what it was 10 years ago.

In Heliopolis there is a school which gets 1,500 pounds per year for a primary student.

Why? Because there are parasites who say "I will pay from 1 pound to 10,000 for my son to go to a language school! Why shouldn't the owners of private schools have a part in the racket!"

Now that we have paved the way for carpenters, welders, plumbers, ironworkers, machinists and masons to emigrate, just as we have paved the way for professionals, the law of supply and demand plays its part, and not only that law but also the presence of large amounts of money in the hands of parasites and their hangers on in the form of other racketeers, the professionals of whose parasitic activities we have given examples, who are also like the young acquirers of great parasitic capitalism!

Tradesmen have started to earn 20,30, 50 pounds a day.

I had the opportunity to observe, by myself, a tradesman setting tile 4 hours a day with a contractor, setting 20 [square] meters for 50 pounds. With him

was a young apprentice of 12 to whom he gave 3 pounds a day, to help him prepare the mortar and the setup work.

This young person would sit down to rest on a chair in the building every hour and remove the tobacco from a Marlboro cigarette, which he would fill with hashish, so that he could smoke, with obvious pleasure. On his chest hung a gold chain, and he was wearing jeans with the sides torn, like an American hippie.

I asked him how he felt. He told me, "Sir, we have been greatly deprived -- let us enjoy ourselves as you do!"

I asked him why his relatives dealt with their clients harshly and disdainfully.

He said,

"Out of the great contempt we have endured, let us get a little revenge and act as you do! Don't any of you say 'I am the son of so-and-so and the daughter of so-and-so?'"

This is a rapid review of the groups of the people who are earning money without much effort.

Let us complete the discussion next week.

11887
CSO: 4504/500

AIRLINE EMPLOYEES ENTANGLED IN SECURITY STRUGGLE

London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 27 Jun 83 Supplement p 1

[Article: "New Developments in the Airlines Case"]

[Text] Reports from Khartoum have indicated that charges by the Sudanese authorities that airlines personnel plotted against the government and sought Numayri's life could be placed in the framework of the competition between security forces to settle their own accounts and get close to Numayri.

These reports revealed that the operation was engineered by Numayri's special security apparatus against the state security apparatus with the objective of removing Maj Gen 'Umar al-Tayyib, head of the [latter] and vice president, from his post, and giving Numayri the opportunity to make a decision on this matter since the top official responsible for security has not been keeping an eye on the movement against Numayri and his government.

Employees of the Sudanese airlines became aware of this trend through their observation of the disagreements that the director general, Mr al-Jazuli al-Malik, had with the minister of state for defense. Al-Jazuli feared that the latter might resort to fabricating fictitious stories to discharge him, and he has enjoyed the respect of the employees working with him.

The charge issue can be traced back to the special security apparatus, headquartered in the presidential palace and receiving orders directly from Numayri, which submitted to him documents to the effect that a faction inside the Sudanese airlines was plotting against his life. Numayri summoned 'Umar al-Tayyib, his first vice president and head of the state security apparatus to clarify the function of his apparatus. Nervously, Numayri presented him with what he believed to be evidence for an accusation, but 'Umar al-Tayyib asked to be given the opportunity to trace the elements mentioned in the charges. He revealed the reality of what was going on, but Numayri asked him to immediately arrest all the names listed in the charges. 'Umar al-Tayyib did carry out the order issued to him; and the security authorities arrested some of the accused elements. A security team took a special plane to Uganda to arrest Mr 'Umar 'Abdallah, the man in charge of the commercial operations of the Sudanese airlines who was then opening a new office in Uganda. He was arrested, returned to Sudan and accused of being the head of the conspiring group.

These reports also disclosed that Maj Gen 'Umar and the state security apparatus were irritated by the action of Numayri's special apparatus. Maj Gen 'Umar is attempting to prove there was no "conspiracy," while the special [security] apparatus endeavors to prove there was. In between the two, innocent citizens are liable for arrest.

12357
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NUMAYRI RESHUFFLES CABINET ; ANOTHER CHANGE EXPECTED

London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 27 Jun 83 Supplement p 2

[Article: "Cabinet Change in Khartoum"]

[Text] President Numayri issued a republican decree to reshuffle the cabinet of his government. The president paved the way for this measure before its announcement by accusing some of his cabinet members of inefficiency and deviation from what he called "proper leadership," thus indicating the corruption practiced by the ministries.

Private sources added that the new cabinet reshuffle is indistinguishable from the repeated changes or appointments taking place every year. Yet, these sources added, the recent reshuffle, which was expected two months earlier, was the opposite of the perceptions of some elements sharing in the government especially "al-Turabi group" whose head, Hasan al-Turabi, failed to win membership in the central committee of the Socialist Union despite his absolute support for government policies. But the strife among the centers of power within the [ruling] authority, which surfaced publicly during the national conference meeting of the Socialist Union, pushed President Numayri to stage a cabinet reshuffle similar to a "playing cards" reshuffle, especially since the president had previously charged the cabinet with many accusations.

In his cabinet reshuffle, Numayri appointed his counselors as new ministers. At the same time, he appointed the outgoing ministers as his counselors.

Once more Numayri reshuffled that mix by making another change while the ink of the first was still wet. In the new reshuffle, he ousted the appointed information minister and brought in a new element within days.

Reports from Khartoum show that the cabinet change will be followed by a new one in the upcoming period--a change that would include the central ministries in Khartoum. It is also expected that cabinet changes will be extended to provincial governments, especially the government of the Southern Province. According to these reports, President Numayri did not consult his political apparatus concerning all the changes he made. Building on the disharmony among his ministers, he seeks to create balances which provide him with absolute control.

12357
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JUDGES PROTEST AGAINST MEDDLING IN JUDICIAL AFFAIRS

London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 27 Jun 83 Supplement pp 1,2

[Article: "Historical Memorandum Sent to Numayri by Sudan's Judges"]

[Text] "In the name of God, the gracious, the merciful

"His Excellency the President of the Republic and Head of the Supreme Judiciary Council

"Via His Excellency Head of the Judiciary

"Blessed greetings from God"

And then

"God the Almighty says in his infallible inspiration: Ye who believe! Stand out firmly for justice, as witnesses to God, even as against yourselves, or your parents, or your kin, and whether it be [against] rich or poor: For God can best protect both. Follow not the lusts [of your hearts], lest ye swerve, and if ye distort [justice] or decline to do justice, verily God is well-acquainted with all that ye do." God the Almighty has uttered the truth.

"From Surat al-Nisa', verse 135.

"Your Excellency the President:

"Permit us to address your excellency in continuation of what has been mentioned to you in our note dated 5 June 1983. We do so to elaborate our view on a critical matter dealing with us and with an important power of the three state powers--the judicial power. As you know, your excellency, justice is the foundation of society, the substance of community life and the key to stability and progress. Since the earliest times, societies have known justice despite differences among nations, multiplicity of culture and diversity of civilizations. All legislations and laws have supported the use of the judiciary, and all constitutions in our contemporary world have included it. It has become a fundamental principle which the judge is entrusted to protect and to defend; and he is held accountable when he invalidates it.

"On the happy occasion of opening the court of appeals in al-Fashir, you, Sir, spoke on the corruption within the judicial domain. The mass media channels relayed that speech, and citizens circulated it. Judges were given descriptions harming their reputation and honor, and distorting the judiciary reputation. Everyone concerned with the interest of the judiciary condemns this defamation. We, as judges, condemn it and utterly object to it.

"Your Excellency the President:

"The judges in Sudan perform their sacred duty under the most difficult and most complex circumstances. They shoulder their obligations with all efficiency and skill. [They are] a model for righteousness and an epitome for honor and dignity.

"We, the provincial and district judges, have been working for many years to detect shortcomings within the judiciary and the encroachment committed against it. We have pointed out the negative side and offered solutions. But the judicial administration has continued intentionally to ignore all our memoranda dispatched to it on this matter.

"Among the principles we have kept proclaiming is that every judge be removed from this sensitive organ [only] by facing sound legal procedures which confirm his corruption, lack of impartiality, misbehavior or inefficiency, as the constitution and law state.

"We absolutely oppose judges being ousted without facing a specific charge and granted all opportunities for self-defense. This is a well established legal principle which the judge adheres to and works to safeguard for every defendant standing before him. Why should the judge be deprived of it?

"The ouster was applied to judges known for their extreme honesty and efficiency. Among them were some of our representatives who were entrusted to speak on our behalf to communicate our views and thoughts in order to promote judicial work and carry it toward future horizons. They were the center of our trust based on our knowledge of their characteristics. Also included among them is the judge who, despite pressure, refused to yield except to the ruling of the law.

"The judiciary, as a result of this measure, has been exposed to a tribulation which evokes anxiety by those who are concerned about its future, since its usefulness has been invalidated. How can the judge [act] against himself and his work?

"His Excellency the President:

"In our previous memorandum to your excellency, we asked for the removal of the head of the judiciary from this top post. Experience proved the fairness of this demand. He is supposed to explain to your excellency the full facts, and not to seize the opportunity for consultation to discredit judges.

"The post of head of the judiciary requires a man who has been rubbed by--and lived with--the work and its circumstances within the judicial organization in reality and not in theory, who has learned and grasped the problems of the

judiciary and its personnel, and who warmly welcomes all members of the judiciary to understand their professional problems, putting them ahead of personal ones, and acts to resolve them within the framework of full cooperation among all individuals, far from rancor and intrigues.

"We want for this post a man who is above suspicions, who has an honorable present, future and past, who is a giant in the face of trivialities, and who withstands pressures and uplifts them far from everything that would profane the honor and fidelity of the profession. [For such a man] we bow our heads in salutation and respect.

"His Excellency the President:

"Today, after having made our view audible and submitted our demands in our previous memorandum to which we received no response, we tender our collective resignations from the judiciary because our consciences will not bear and will not accept for us to continue one day after the slanderous campaign against justice and judges, and the decision to remove judges in violation of the rulings of the law for the judiciary, the principle of judicial independence.

"[The resignation is also because] the ouster decision, whatever its form and support may be, included the names of judges who are the repository of our confidence and who were our representatives, as well as the names of innocent district and provincial judges.

"As we submit our resignations, we assure you of our stand by the decision to submit them and our insistence that the following should be responded to:

"First, the reinstatement of the judges who were unfairly ousted by the republican decree issued on 4 June 1983. The ouster decision should not have any impact on the clean course of their service. They are our honest representatives in the two judicial committees and our other colleagues, the innocent provincial and district judges. To be emphasized is the principle that any judge may be ousted in future only in accordance with the rulings and procedures stated in the law, starting with his facing a definite charge, passing on to assuring his right to defend himself fully, and ending with the issuance decision to remove him based on a recommendation by a competent authority defined by law.

"Second, the removal of the present head of the judiciary and the selection of an efficient and capable judge to fill this senior post.

"Third, working to emphasize the principle of judicial independence to the extent of amending the law of the Supreme Judicial Council issued in 1976, to realize and reinforce this principle.

"His Excellency the President:

"This is our view submitted to you. We are certain that it will be accepted and answered in response to the call for right.

"From God Help is sought. Thank you.

"Provincial and district judges

Khartoum

11 June 1983"

12357

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DESERTIFICATION THREATENS TO OBLITERATE NORTH

London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 27 Jun 83 Supplement p 3

[Article: "Nile Stream Threatened by Sand"]

[Text] UN international agencies have recently paid attention to the creeping desert in Africa. Some European universities also have showed interest in this phenomenon which is partly due to climatic fluctuations and the lack of soil protection against desertification.

Sudan is among the regions threatened by desert creep because of some climatic factors, human land activities and grazing unaccompanied by regulation that would maintain the soil and not threaten the country's agricultural wealth, a situation that ultimately has aggravated the phenomenon and is turning it into a calamity threatening many parts of the Sudan.

The country's northern region is considered among the regions most exposed to the "desertification" problem. The geographical and climatic conditions of the area, the factor of its presence in the heart of the desert, and the scarcity--and sometimes the absence--of rain, together with the population density, have made the region more susceptible than others to the desertification problem.

Scientists have confirmed that the desert advances in the Sudan at an annual rate of 5 to 6 kilometers. Every year in the northern region, some 50 feddans of cultivable land are swallowed by the desert, causing the relocation of more than 5 families to other parts of the country in search of a better life.

Desert creep threatens all the agricultural lands in the northern region. One example is "Hawd Karmah," covering 90,000 feddans in 1904 and having shrunk in recent years to 50,000 feddans. The eastern side of the Nile is worse than the western. There, wind is more active and sand speed accelerates.

If we pick a model of the regions where this phenomenon gravely appears, the tragedy emerges. In a big village like Affat, we notice that desert creep has swept over the agricultural lands there and that dunes have covered residential houses, causing the migration and homelessness of their inhabitants.

In recent years, we find that the desert sand has speeded up its pace toward the Nile River stream. In some parts, sand has formed high hills on both banks

of the Nile, as well as sand islands obstructing navigation routes and irrigation operations.

Many of the area villages have disappeared and their residents have departed. Unless immediate action is taken, Affat will be added to the extinct regions swallowed by the desert. More critical is the increasing movement of sand in a fashion threatening to turn the Nile River itself into a ditch filled with sand, or to divert its course, leaving behind a number of lakes in the region.

With the problem reaching this grave state, a team of desertification experts visiting the region to explore its dimensions suggested an immediate solution [stressing] the necessity for building a protective belt around the region so that the near future effect will not be extended to threaten the Nile itself. This temporary solution has not been implemented so far, although the problem requires no delay, so much so that the "Sudanese Churches Organization," rather than government circles, came to check conditions in the region and its residents. It pledged to contribute to solving the problem of the region, although the residents comprehend the dimensions of the implication that this "humanitarianism" seeks.

This is the problem of many "northern" regions. It is not determined by local residents there, but has its own grave consequences on the rest of the other regions of Sudan. By the same token, there are parts of Sudan facing the problem in both the west and the east, a factor that threatens mankind as well as the country's economy and wealth.

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SUDAN

BRIEFS

BUSINESSES SELL POWER TO PUBLIC--Due to the frequent interruption of electricity and water in Khartoum, many larger shops have resorted to acquiring their own electric generators to be able to continue their activities unaffected by the interruption of the state-controlled electric service. Nothing remains of such service except wires and poles; the electric current is non-existent. Strangely, some of these shops, including petroleum products distribution stations, have forced each owner of a car to pay the sum of PT 10 when the current is cut and the electric generator is operated to supply the cars with petroleum products. Whoever does not pay this "bill" has to wait until the government's electric current returns. The interesting irony is that owners of the petroleum products stations naturally pay the value of the electricity they use in their activities. But, possessing their own electricity now, they invented this electric bill which is stranger than fiction. [Text] [London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 27 Jun 83 Supplement p 3] 12357

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PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS

PLAN TO OUST PLO LEADERSHIP DISCLOSED

London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic No 179, 16-22 Jul 83 pp 14-15

[Article by Salih Qallab: "AL-MAJALLAH Reveals the Details of the Coup Against 'Arafat's Leadership!"]

[Text] The separatist movement -- or the insurrectionary movement, as Abu 'Ammar likes to call it -- in Fatah has been going on for more than 2 months. The snow ball which seemed small last May is still growing larger and larger, and it is not expected to come to rest in any particular place in the near future.

AL-MAJALLAH has met with more than one Palestinian official, doing the most recent interviews in Tunis, following the expulsion of Mr Yasir 'Arafat from Syria. One result has emerged from the limited answers and the general feeling, namely, that the split in the Fatah movement has become a settling of accounts, while repairing the Syrian - Palestinian rift has become much harder than was expected.

The information acquired by AL-MAJALLAH, which it alone is publishing, indicates that what has happened within the Fatah movement is not merely a reaction to mistakes and offenses committed within the Palestinian resistance. Rather, it is a disciplined military coup which has been planned for some time and in which numerous sides have participated.

Our information says that a meeting was held last April in an Arab capital which has been perpetually in conflict with the Fatah movement. The meeting was attended by the head of this state, a number of his military and political assistants, and members of the Fatah central committee: Nimr Salih (Abu Salih) and Samih Kuwayk (Qadri), as well as Abu Khalid al-'Umlah and Sa'id Musa (Abu Musa). During the long meeting, which lasted for more than 7 hours, the phases of the planned coup against 'Arafat were reviewed. The final touches were put on this plan, including deciding when to start carrying it out.

After everything had been agreed upon, the Arab head of state mentioned above spoke, emphasizing the need to proceed with the plan till its very end. Addressing Abu Salih and the other Palestinian officials, he said: "The Fatah movement has made us grow accustomed to watching it adeptly swallow its

internal conflicts, just as 'Arafat's leadership has accustomed us to the fact that he maneuvers with cleverness and can cope with problems. Therefore, we are afraid that you will cut us off in the middle of the road." He added: "You know that confrontation with 'Arafat will not be easy, and that it will cost you much if you withdraw from the field. Therefore, I want to hear your promise that you will continue to the end, until the end of the plan."

Everyone promised to continue with the plan until its end. A decision was made for the rebels to refuse any meeting with the members of the Fatah central committee and to cease recognizing the extant forums, such as the revolutionary council and the general congress. They were also to reject any mediation effort by anyone, including efforts made by the Palestinian factions.

The Insurrectionary Plan

According to our information, the plan calls for the rebels to call for a national dialogue, while at the same time rejecting any meeting or dialogue with the leadership, including those members who are considered to be dedicated to unanimity by all Palestinian circles, such as Faruq al-Qaddumi (Abu al-Lutf) and Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad).

The plan also calls for the rebels to say they are most eager to avoid spilling of a single drop of blood, while simultaneously taking over the Fatah offices and bases one after the other, so as to present everyone with a fait accompli in the end.

As for its limited measures on the ground, the plan calls for the rebels to gain complete control of the Fatah movement first, by striking and shattering the organizational infrastructure and seizing the offices and bases. Then they are to turn their attention to the PLO and undertake a comprehensive coup against it, including changing the membership of the Palestinian national council and the executive committee either completely or mostly, since it is thought that some members will support the coup. 'Arafat himself is to be replaced.

On the basis of this plan, two weeks were set aside for it all to be done: the final swallowing up of the Fatah movement, followed by the transition to the coup against the PLO and pulling the carpet out from under 'Arafat's feet.

The idea that all this was being prepared for and carried out is supported by an official in the rebel movement, who told a number of Fatah cadres during the phase of military confrontations in the Biqa': "We are now using rifles to convince those who don't want to be convinced that they should join us, but the day will come when we will issue them orders to join us over the telephone." Another official said: "We are proceeding with our plan. This movement is our movement. We will not secede, neither will we form a new organization. We welcome any of the leaders who want to join us on the basis of our political program. Anyone who does not want to will have no place among us or on the Palestinian scene."

The Surprise

Among the information obtained by AL-MAJALLAH from well informed sources is that, at the meeting which took place between the above mentioned Arab head of state and the rebel leaders in late April, the forces extant on the Palestinian scene were reviewed. Abu Salih confirmed that 90 percent of Fatah was with him, that all the Palestinian organizations would support him, and that there was no need for any announced interference from outside the Palestinian scene. He said that the balance of power was tilted very much in favor of him and his rebel movement. However, despite Abu Salih's assurances, a broad discussion was held concerning the positions of the Popular and Democratic Fronts. Many questions were raised about the possibility of them supporting the rebellion. In the end, it was decided that the geographic factor would be important, and that, if 'Arafat were to find refuge in Tunisia, Algeria, or some other Arab country, Habash and Hawatimah would have few choices left in light of the geographic reality pertaining after the exodus from Beirut.

After the rebel movement and the attack on the Fatah leadership had begun, it became clear that the estimates of the Abu Salih and the rebels were not precise. It became obvious that the Popular Front, the Democratic Front, and the Palestinian Liberation Front were taking a strong and firm position in support of Palestinian legitimacy, and that the geographic factor had not scared these groups into abandoning the unity of the Palestinian scene, their rejection of internecine fighting, or the PLO and Yasir 'Arafat as a symbol and leader of the Palestinian people.

In this regard, after the positions of these organizations became clear and a joint communique had been issued by the Popular and Democratic Fronts, it was reported that a rebel leader had said that Hawatimah and Habash had been raised in monasteries, and that such an upbringing had imprinted fear and servility into their spirits, so that "they submit to 'Arafat and his leadership."

As for the second plan which shook the rebels' plan, it is that the great majority of Fatah's political and military cadres did not accept the rebels "in groups and one-by-one," as the rebels had expected. It became clear that those who initially supported the demand for reforms did not hesitate to switch sides after 'Arafat was expelled from Syria and Libya blessed the rebel movement publicly and launched a violent campaign against Yasir 'Arafat and the Fatah leadership.

One official of the second rank in the Fatah movement who is among the most famous Palestinian authors told me he had been with the rebel movement with his heart and soul, since he thought it was limited to reforming the Palestinian resistance, until the first shot was fired against other Palestinians. "At that point," said the Palestinian intellectual, "I began to think again, until 'Arafat was expelled. Then I discovered that all the talk about reforms, although true, was intended to deceive." An important Palestinian poet who had played the role of a mediator in the beginning said: "If you want to fix

your father's teeth, you don't cut his throat. I've been certain from the beginning that all this had nothing to do with reform. These people have something up their sleeves."

An official from one of the Palestinian organizations which has refused to support the rebel movement said: "We support reform and are against 'Arafat's one-man style of leadership. Although we are aware that all those people performed poorly during the war and committed violations in Lebanon, we are completely sure that the reform demands are a Trojan horse meant to finish off the PLO." Another official said: "What has happened will not be limited to Fatah. We have confirmed information indicating that the plan includes transmitting the "germ" of rebellion to the other groups, with the goal of fragmenting the Palestinian scene and then reorganizing it in a way consistent with the new geographic and political reality." This official revealed to AL-MAJALLAH that, after the rebel group has gained control of the Biqa' plain and the Ba'labakk region, a plan will be carried out which calls for gathering the Palestinian forces into fixed camps, dissolving the militias belonging to the resistance groups, and handing their weapons over to the groups in the Lebanese National Movement.

The Plan Continues

In the midst of an atmosphere of worry and anticipation, Palestinian circles are conveying information according to which the rebel plan has not been scrapped, despite the cease-fire, despite the current vacillation and the Arab and Palestinian mediation efforts. The rebels will undertake dramatic steps during the next few days. Among the information acquired by AL-MAJALLAH is a report that the Palestinian mediation committee, which is composed of a number of executive committee members and leaders of Palestinian factions, under the chairmanship of Khalid al-Fahum, brought back from Damascus after its first tour both Syrian conditions and conditions laid down by the rebel group. They were described by those close to 'Arafat as debilitating and unacceptable under any circumstances.

The Syrian conditions, as stated by Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam to the committee, contain two points. First, 'Arafat must publicly apologize through the news media for the accusations he made against the Syrian forces, in which he said that these forces were fighting side-by-side with the rebels. Second, he must agree to all the demands of the rebel movement.

As for the rebels' demands, they contained eight points which they had previously announced. Among them was a call for the right men to be put in the right positions, for Abu al-Za'im, Abu Hajim and al-Hajj Isma'il to be expelled from the movement, for an emergency conference to be held, with half the delegates from the rebels and half from the other side, and for a clear position to be adopted rejecting the decisions of the Fes summit, the Reagan plan, the rapprochement with Egypt, and the dialogue with Jordan.

A New Development

Among the new developments brought back from Damascus by the mediation committee is a suggestion from the organizations which support the rebel movement.

These are the Popular Front -- General Command, the Popular Struggle Front, and al-Sa'iqah. They call for Abu Musa to be appointed general commander of the Palestinian forces in the Biqa' and North Lebanon.

During a meeting held in the home of the director of the PLO office in Tunis, with Hakam Bal'awi, 'Arafat, and the mediation committee participating, this proposal was discussed, and it is said that the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine did not take a negative view of the proposal. Abu Iyad spoke for a long time about Syrian - Palestinian relations and the difficult circumstances the Palestinian issue found itself in. Sources in the Palestinian leadership said that Abu Iyad spoke so movingly that some of those in attendance wept at what he said. Among them was PLO Executive Committee Member Ahmad al-Yamani (Abu Mahir), who has been described as "the conscience of the Palestinian resistance." In addition, 'Abd-al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, one of the proponents of the Syrian point of view, announced that he agreed with more than 60 percent of what Abu Iyad had said. The sources themselves said that the suggestion to appoint Abu Musa general commander of the forces of the Palestinian revolution in the Biqa' and North Lebanon had been rejected root and branch, and that the Fatah leadership had emphasized the need to reinforce the cease-fire, while agreeing to some of the mutineers' conditions, since most of these conditions were contained in the statement issued by the Fatah revolutionary council at the meeting it held last month in Damascus.

According to our information, during the meeting held by the Palestinian mediation committee and the Fatah leadership, the attempts to create an alternate PLO leadership were discussed. It is said that the president of the Palestinian national council, Khalid al-Fahum, swore that he would not call a council meeting unless he had unanimous Palestinian support and the agreement of the legitimate Palestinian leadership.

Regarding developments on the level of the Arab mediation efforts, AL-MAJALLAH learned that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad had recently sent a letter to a great Arab leader in which he expressed his wish to repair the Syrian - Palestinian rift and confirmed that Syria does not want to replace 'Arafat as chairman of the executive committee of the PLO. Our information indicates that a delegation sent by this leader conveyed the contents of this letter to 'Arafat, and that the leader asked the Palestinian leadership to be patient and continue their current policy, in order to keep from widening the gap between Syria and the PLO.

Moscow Is Furious

Among the information current in Palestinian circles is that the Soviets are very angry with what is happening. Their repeated letters to President al-Asad and 'Arafat call for things to be put right before an explosion is set off that will encompass everyone. They have confirmed to more than one Palestinian and Syrian official that they support 'Arafat's leadership and the legitimate Palestinian order and are against the insurrection, which they consider a "petit-bourgeois adventure" which will lead to nothing but a disaster for the entire Palestinian cause.

In this regard, AL-MAJALLAH has learned that 'Arafat recently received an urgent invitation to visit the Soviet Union, and that he had excused himself due to his great work load. Instead, the head of the PLO's political department, Faruq al-Qaddumi, who is known as Abu al-Lutf, was picked to head a delegation composed of two executive committee members, Ahmad al-Yamani (Abu Mahir) and Yasir 'Abd-Rabbih.

Responsible Palestinian sources have mentioned that a high Soviet official met with 'Arafat in Prague, Czechoslovakia, right after he left Syria, and that the two men had conducted a heated dialogue. The Soviet official assured 'Arafat that his country was with him, supported his leadership, and would do its utmost to convince Syria of the need to contain the current rift in Palestinian - Syrian relations. However, despite these assurances, one Palestinian official did not hide his fear that the Soviet Union would align itself with Damascus, or at least stay neutral if the conflict between Syria and the PLO became worse. This source mentions the visit of the former Soviet Prime Minister Alexei Kosygin to the Syrian capital following the start of the introduction of Syrian forces into Lebanon in 1976.

In general, the Palestinians do not expect the situation to stay the same for long. They point out that the Fatah leadership, under pressure from the movement's broad base, decided to expel the rebels, but froze this decision in order not to block the road in front of the wall intentioned mediators. They point out, too, that the next 2 weeks will witness decisive developments, unless the mediation efforts produce something.

It should be mentioned here that 'Arafat called all his political advisors, including Shafiq al-Hut, Edward Sa'id and Walid al-Khalidi, in order to determine what his next step should be if things develop further. There is a lot of talk among some of his advisors about an Egyptian - Jordanian - Iraqi front and the position Egypt may take toward the PLO in the near future.

9201
CSO: 4404/511

AFGHANISTAN

ADDITIONAL TRAINING PLANNED FOR ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL

Kabul ANIS in Dari 6 Aug 83 p 4

[Interview with Jamaloddin Omar; date and place not specified]

[Text] We bring you a summary of an interview by a correspondent of ANIS with Staff Colonel Jamaloddin Omar, head of education and training in the Ministry of Defense concerning the training of technical personnel and scientific cadres of the armed forces of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

Question: As chief of education and training of the army of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan how do you see your role in strengthening the armed forces of the country?

Answer: When an army is successful it can carry out its duties while stationed or on the move vis-a-vis its domestic and foreign enemies in a right and proper fashion, having good military and combat training. Given the availability of modern weapons and facilities, trained officer cadres equipped with labor class ideology and the provision of superior combat training and education this can become possible. As a result of the deep and continuous attention of the central committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and the government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, the country's armed forces are equipped with modern land, air and air defense arms and equipment. Needless to say that no matter how superior and modern the arms may be, since their users are human beings, having superior combat trained officer cadres is basic and vital for the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

Of course the head of the army's education and training is responsible for the development and training of officer cadres, for drawing up and implementing combat training plans while at the same time fully cooperating with various large units and sections in carrying out such plans and in providing effective guidance to insure that this is completed on schedule. In order to enhance combat training of various units and divisions, the education and training section has prepared, printed and distributed hundreds of instructions concerning new training and education procedures which are being widely used in the glorious army as well as the armed forces of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

Our army is a modern one which protects the toilers of the country and is equipped with new techniques and modern education and training procedures.

Question: In your opinion how should the plans of your division be formulated so as to satisfy needs of the armed forces for technical personnel and scientifically-trained cadres?

Answer: There are plans on hand in the victorious army of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan for the establishment of equipment, arms and modern means of expanding and administering high combat and political instruction. Some of these have been put into effect, others are now being implemented. So, the achievement of all these great plans and objectives of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, the Guidance Council and the National Ministry of Defense is tied to having knowledgeable, dedicated and alert cadres in all army matters. All of these responsibilities devolve upon the education and training division.

The programs of the education and training division and all teaching institutes of the army and field units have been so based as to have met to a degree the needs of our modern armed forces for technical personnel and scientifically-trained cadres at levels of both quality and quantity. The successes of the army against the enemies of the revolution and the country support our claims.

All instruction programs have been drawn up anew in accordance with our modern and present needs and the high goals of the glorious Sawr Revolution, and a number of students have been sent to all socialist countries, particularly to the great Soviet Union, to receive higher instruction and expertise.

Question: Could you kindly explain how many teaching centers, and what disciplines, come under your division and how many are receiving instruction in these centers this year?

Answer: We have established adequate numbers of military colleges, academies, schools and teaching centers for all branches, as well as, appropriate instruction centers for developing air and ground command abilities for training technical and technological cadres, political workers, doctors, soldiers and so on. In some instances, the Ministries of Higher and Vocational Education and Public Health have fully cooperated with the army of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan in some scientific teaching and the training of cadres.

This year 2,000 students and trainees have entered training centers and this process is continuing.

Question: Can you explain on what basis trainees are accepted into such centers of the armed forces and what subjects are they taught?

Answer: There are no special conditions for the acceptance of applicants that would create bureaucracy or prevent participation as was the case in the past, except those that are currently followed in developed countries. The

basic conditions consist of being physically fit, adequately educated, free of known criminal activity or moral turpitude.

Regarding subjects taught in army schools, I must add that we have two types of centers: Scientific and technical teaching centers, where programs of the Ministry of Higher and Vocational Education and the Ministry of Education are implemented and taught; and there are military training or educational centers, at which more vocational disciplines, as well as, general cultural subjects are taught.

9201
CSO: 4665/15

CLIMATE FOR FOREIGN INVESTMENT FOUND TO BE IMPROVING

Dhaka DIANIK BANGLA in Bengali 23 Jul 83 p 5

[Editorial: "Foreign Investment"]

[Text] Recently, under the chairmanship of Chief Martial Law Administrator General Ershad, the foreign investment office of the government approved 11 investment proposals from foreign countries, 10 in the private sector, 1 in the public sector.

The extent of foreign investment in our country is very limited. There are some valid reasons for this. Primarily, we have some hesitation about allowing foreign investments in our country. We realize that such investments could be beneficial, but on other hand, if they are not properly regulated, they could cause serious problems. Of course, our hesitation in this respect has not been the main impediment. The proper political climate and economic environment, which are vital for attracting foreign investments, were absent. On many occasions, political uncertainties also created a sense of insecurity in the minds of foreign investors. In spite of all this, it is encouraging to note that foreign investors are finally showing some interest in investing here.

We feel we should take adequate precautions to ensure that foreign investments do not clash with our own economic interests. Foreign investments will not only help us gain access to foreign exchange, they will also provide much-needed employment opportunities. Some countries have been able to acquire technical know-how from foreign investors to assist them in their own industrialization. Of course, there are instances in which some countries have lost control over their own economies. As a matter of fact, the extent to which foreign investment might be beneficial to us would depend entirely on our own skills and capabilities. If foreign investments can be regulated properly, they could help us to industrialize.

It is encouraging that foreign capital is being attracted to our country. Foreign investments in larger volume only go to prove that some degree of stability has finally come to our economic climate.

12195
CSO: 4607/13

FOREIGN EMPLOYMENT, PHYSICIAN UNEMPLOYMENT, VISA FRAUD ASSESSED

Dhaka SANGBAD in Bengali 23 Jul 83 p 4

[Editorial: "Concerning Overseas Employment"]

[Text] On 20 July, 110 Bangladeshis were returned from Jidda airport in Saudi Arabia on charges of arriving with forged visas. These people have asserted that they had authentic visas. The immigration authorities at Zia airport have somewhat corroborated their statements. The matter has become highly controversial. Anyway, the problem of harassment on charges of forged visas continues to fester. Two days prior to this incident, immigration police at Zia airport arrested two persons on charges of forging visas and passports, allegedly at the airport to see off a few others going overseas.

Such events have become commonplace. On one side, innumerable Bangladeshis are being kicked out of Middle Eastern and Far Eastern airports for carrying false passports and visas. On the other hand, within our own country countless people are being arrested regularly for forging them. The problem of the harassment of job seekers overseas and the illegal activities of counterfeiters in this country continues unabated. Are criminals so strong that they cannot be controlled? Or is their network so widespread that it is beyond the government's ability to subdue? It appears that the situation is completely out of control. It is not only the lure of foreign money that makes our youth leave the country; the main reason for their exodus is lack of employment in our country. An example of such compulsion is the pandemonium and excitement that was created when 3,000 physician-applicants appeared to take a qualifying test for 100 vacancies in warring Iran. In this connection, consider the statement issued by the president of Dhaka Medical College Teachers Association supporting the demands of 375 unemployed physicians. They have demanded that a far greater number of physicians should be allowed to go to Iran as a way of alleviating the unemployment problem among physicians. But there should be no reason for physicians in this country to remain unemployed. The age-old problem of our people not getting medical attention due to the unavailability of physicians continues to remain acute. In the rural areas, hospitals do not have the required number of physicians. For those few that do, in most cases

the physicians live far from the hospitals because of a lack of adequate living accommodations or other problems. Patients get to see their doctors only by chance. Even under these pitiful circumstances, the president of Dhaka Medical College Teachers Association says that it is impossible to find government employment for hundreds of unemployed physicians. In fact, there is only one physician for every 8,000 citizens. And only 10 percent of them serve in rural areas. This fact alone illustrates the critical situation of medical care in our country.

Virtually no efforts are being made to create employment in the rural areas. This is one of the main reasons for the great rush of skilled and semiskilled workers to go overseas. Then there is another twist. In addition to solving the unemployment problem in our country, these people send home foreign currency. Considering these facts, it appears that it should be the government's duty to take some steps to protect these people from unnecessary harassments at the hands of unscrupulous swindlers and cheats.

In any case, the problem concerning physicians should be viewed differently. We wonder, if the physicians themselves become the victims of some kind of deceptions that, in turn, compells them to deceive common citizens by depriving them of medical attention? Is it not urgent that the government put an end to this cycle of deception by expanding medical facilities for the millions of people and at the same time solve the unemployment problem among physicians?

12195
CSO: 4607/13

HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG PHYSICIANS CALLS FOR ACTION

Dhaka ITTEFAQ in Bengali 26 Jun 83 p 2

[Editorial: "It May Seem Indredible, But It's True"]

[Text] It seems that nothing in our country follows a normal course. Here contradiction is the rule. In this land of water, we suffer from drought. Side by side with drought conditions, villages remain flooded. "Indeed, Selukas, what a strange land is this!" Since this comment was made by a surprised and bewildered victorious invader, many years have passed. But so far, nobody has found any reason to change that comment. On the other hand, the state of our country repeatedly proves the truthfulness of that statement. Nothing in this country can be considered normal. Consider one example. Though in our country there is only one physician for every 15,000-16,000 people, why can physicians not find employment? It may seem impossible, but it is a fact.

It has been reported in a news item that even after passing the BCS examination, physicians cannot find a job. It has been 2 months since the results have been published. However, 359 graduates of the Civil Service examination who have been recommended for suitable employment are still without jobs. In the past, no sooner had a medical school graduate completed 1 year of residency than he could find employment. On the other hand, over the past few years that process has slowed down considerably. These days, even after completing their residency, physicians continue to remain unemployed. Since the rate of employed physicians is much higher than overall employment in the country, it may appear that our country does not need any more physicians. As a matter of fact, the need is most acute. In urban areas, some medical facilities exist, but in the rural areas the need for medical facilities is so critical as to beggar description. Under these circumstances, it becomes difficult to comprehend the reason for unemployment among physicians.

The seriousness of the unemployment problem is well known to us. For skilled and unskilled workers combined, there are approximately 10 million unemployed in our country. Compraed with this huge unemployment figure, unemployment among physicians may not appear abnormal. But we must not consider unemployment among physicians from the same standpoint as for other unemployed persons. It is not true that there are no employment

opportunities for physicians. In fact, there are too few physicians to meet the needs of our people. The most surprising fact is that in spite of this great demand for physicians, they remain unemployed. Under these circumstances, this must not be included in the overall unemployment problem of our country. It has been reported that this impossible situation is the result of the imposition of restrictions on the employment of physicians and an ad hoc basis. In the past, temporary appointments were made by ignoring this restriction. When qualified physicians remain unemployed, it becomes not only a matter of personal loss to the physicians-- it also becomes a matter of serious concern to millions of sick and suffering humanity. They are the ones who are being deprived of the most acutely needed medical attention. This matter demands urgent and serious consideration from the authorities.

12195
CSO: 4607/12

INCREASES IN RAIL FARES, OTHER PRICES CRITICIZED

Dhaka SANGBAD in Bengali 24 Jun 83 p 4

[Editorial: "Isn't There Any Other Way?"]

[Text] Railway fares are about to go up again. Hints of such an increase have been reported in another newspaper, creating much concern among the people. There is a saying, "Whatever is rumored, some of its proves to be true." In our country, that saying has never proved to be false whenever rumors of increases in taxes, excise duties, rents and other commodities surface. Quite naturally, the possibility of a railway fare increase follows the same path.

It has been reported that a hefty 35-percent increase has been recommended to the Council of Ministers for its approval. Our concern escalated when we discovered that in support of the fare increases, many incredible arguments have been advanced: the transport of irrigation water is cheaper than rail travel, the Asian Development Bank has recommended such an increase and similar arguments. The effect of this fare increase on the people needs no elaboration. The authorities know very well that ordinary people will have to shoulder the bulk of this burden. Furthermore, there is no reason to believe that the authorities do not realize that the general population no longer has the ability to shoulder the pressures of continuous cost increases. Under normal conditions, rail fares are increased in installments. As a matter of fact, in recent times not a single year has passed when railway fares did not go up.

Some more bad news about price increases is imminent. The cost of newsprint is expected to go up soon. It is also reported that telephone charges are to be increased; the price of corrugated roofing materials and cotton is also about to go up. Naturally everyone is anxious: how high will the rail fare increase go? Usually, people become apprehensive about price increases before annual budget sessions, because in every budget, taxes, surcharges and duties go up. But this year, even before the budget session, prices of some commodities were increased and a few service charges have been imposed. People are greatly worried. Is it not possible for the government to find ways to relieve the general population of such concerns?

Arguments in favor of price increases are never lacking. The increased cost of raw materials and higher employee salaries are among the most familiar. Make no effort to counter these arguments. But we wonder, if proper efforts were really made, if the rise in production costs or service charges could not be modified? It is a known fact that our own government is primarily responsible for the increases in production costs due to the imposition of one tax after another on commodities. Furthermore, the unrestrained cost hikes of our open-ended government and the rapidly spreading dishonesty in every sphere of our life keep the cost of our administration going up and up.

If, somehow, the amount of energy and time that are wasted to find ways to impose additional sales taxes, excise duties and other charges were utilized to determine ways to lighten the crushing load of our top-heavy government and control the tyranny of dishonesty, price increases could have been minimized. The demand for higher wages becomes stronger every year. Consequently, authorities feel compelled to agree to demands for higher wages. If the government were able to check the escalating price increases, a great deal might have been saved. Before the government gets busy with the task of increasing taxes, rail fares and surcharges, could it not take some steps to provide some relief for the masses?

12195
CSO: 4607/12

GANDHI VISIT TO WASHINGTON IN SEPTEMBER UNLIKELY

Madras THE HINDU in English 25 Jul 83 p 5

[Article by R. Chakrapani]

[Text] WASHINGTON, July 23--The Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi's proposed visit to the U.N. General Assembly session will take place from September 25 to October 1, as planned at present.

She will address the Assembly on world economic and political problems and spend most of the time in New York exchanging views with visiting heads of Government. In view of the fact that she paid an official visit to Washington only last year, it is unlikely that she will pay a second visit here so soon.

In a letter to world leaders written after the non-aligned summit conference held in New Delhi, Mrs. Gandhi, in her capacity as chairman of the movement, suggested an informal meeting at the U.N. headquarters of as many heads of government as possible as a means to improve the international climate. In that connection she also wrote to the U.S. President, Mr. Ronald Reagan, and the Soviet leader Mr. Yuri Andropov and heads of the industrialised countries represented at the Williamsburg economic summit. Both Mr. Reagan and Mr. Andropov seem to be keeping their options open and have not yet given their final response. One of the questions that seems to concern the U.S. is what purpose such a huge gathering will accomplish.

The recent visit of the U.S. Secretary of State, Mr. George P. Shultz, to India, besides helping ease Indian concerns on the supply of spare parts to the Tarapur nuclear power plant, enabled both sides to have an in-depth exchange of views on bilateral as well as international issues. Mr. Shultz is said to have made a good impression in New Delhi and in the U.S. side also there is satisfaction about the visit. In the new climate created by Mr. Shultz, the dialogue is to be further continued at a high-level official meeting to be held in Washington. No date has been set for the meeting but it is expected to be held probably in September before Mrs. Gandhi's visit to New York.

The Indian official team will be headed by the Foreign Secretary, Mr. M. K. Rasagotra and the U.S. team by Mr. Lawrence Eagleburger, Under-Secretary of State for political affairs. Both the Indian Ambassador, Mr. K. R. Narayanan, who has returned from India after the Shultz visit, and the U. S. Ambassador in New Delhi, Mr. Harry Barnes, will join the discussions.

CSO: 4600/1483

CPI RESOLUTION NAMES PEACE DAY, SCORES U.S.

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 20 Jul 83 p 7

[Text] The Central Executive Committee of the CPI has decided to observe 1 September as international day of peace and against war, throughout the country as per the call given by the World Assembly for Peace and Life which met last month in Prague, Czechoslovakia.

The CEC in a resolution has called upon all party units to make the campaign a success in cooperation with the All India Peace and Solidarity Organisation and with all political parties and mass organisations whose representatives had participated in the Prague meeting

The Committee warmly welcomed the peace proposals made by the Soviet Union and other Warsaw Pact countries in the recent past, including the proposal for a nuclear arms freeze, for renunciation of the first use of nuclear strike and a treaty on non-use of force by the NATO and Warsaw Pact powers.

The resolution said the appeal of the World Assembly had also drawn attention to the aggressions committed against sovereign States and the military conflicts provoked between different countries from outside and the constant expansion of foreign military bases by US imperialists.

All this is creating explosive situations in the Middle East Central America, Southern Africa, South-East Asia and the Far East, it added.

In this connection, the CPI said, the Indian people have good grounds to be concerned at the continued blocking by the US Government of all negotiations to make the Indian Ocean a zone of peace, the expansion of the US base in Diego Garcia, the continuing arms build up of the military regime in Pakistan and the activities of the US Rapid Deployment Force in the Persian Gulf area.

The resolution said during the last one year the war clouds have become darker and nuclear arms race has assumed more threatening proportions than ever before due to the policies of the Reagan administration.

CSO: 4600/1467

ANALYST REPORTS PAKISTAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT

Madras THE HINDU in English 2 Aug 83 p 9

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text] NEW DELHI, Aug. 1--The Pakistan Foreign Minister, Mr. Yaqub Ali Khan, is extending his stay in Delhi by a day primarily to pay a private visit to Agra which he has not seen since Partition.

There have been some informal contacts between the two Foreign Ministers and the Foreign Secretaries on bilateral issues, but no talks as such on any specific aspects of the two inter-related proposals for a friendship treaty and a no-war pact.

The Foreign Secretary, Mr. M. K. Rasgotra, and his Pakistan counterpart, Mr. Niaz Naik, had occasion to talk of pending issues including the no-war proposition when they spent the week-end together in Agra along with the other Foreign Secretaries participating in the preparatory meetings of the Foreign Ministers' conference on regional cooperation.

The two Foreign Ministers, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao and Mr. Yaqub Ali Khan, also have been having similar exchanges in general tones without getting down to a discussion on any particular question.

The intention is to have a proper meeting between the two Foreign Secretaries later this year at their mutual convenience to carry forward the dialogue on the no-war issue to the stage of substantive discussions. At present there is no meeting ground between the Indian idea of treaty of friendship and peace and the Pakistani proposal for a single agreement on non-aggression.

So the earlier attempts to merge the two drafts into a single document as an agreed basis for further discussion have been given up for the time being in the absence of an understanding on the very concept of a no-war pact. The Pakistan side is still adamant in its refusal to commit itself in any way on the question of leasing bases to third power or powers or settling bilateral disputes without outside intervention.

The Pakistani contention is that, though it has no intention of leasing bases to any big power including the United States, it cannot as a sovereign nation

make a commitment to this effect to another country like India as part of a bilateral agreement. Nor can it give up its inherent right under the U.N. Charter to take the Kashmir dispute to the world forum if it could not be settled with India through bilateral negotiations.

As these two positions are unacceptable to it, India sees no great urgency for pressing forward with the no-war talks until the two countries are able to evolve a mutually acceptable concept of non-aggression with a positive content of friendship built into it. And this is where the no-war dialogue is stuck at present.

CSO: 4600/1491

REPORTAGE ON SOUTH ASIAN FOREIGN MINISTERS' PARLEY

Foreign Secretaries Meeting

Madras THE HINDU in English 30 Jul 83 p 7

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text] NEW DELHI, July 29--The Foreign Secretaries of the Seven South Asian countries--India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Maldives --concluded their preparatory talks after finalising the drafts of the declaration on the purpose and scope of the proposed regional cooperation and the joint communique announcing the formal adoption and launching of the integrated action programme.

It has been left to the Foreign Ministers, who will be meeting on Monday and Tuesday to adopt these documents, to decide in what form they should recommend to their respective Heads of Government to hold a summit conference of the seven countries at an appropriate time to carry forward and progressively expand this concept of South Asia Regional Cooperation (SARC) to promote a spirit of collective self-reliance.

The Foreign Secretaries also finalised their report to the Foreign Ministers spelling out in detail the agreed areas of cooperation, and the institutional and financial arrangements made for the implementation of the integrated action programme. It was decided to confine this cooperation for the present to agriculture, rural development, telecommunications, postal services meteorology, health and population studies, transport, science and technology, sports, arts and culture, without widening the scope at this stage.

Modest start: The whole accent was on making a modest start in a constructive spirit and concentrate on areas of common welfare to improve the quality of life of their peoples to fulfil their national aspirations. The basic purpose, it was stressed, was to complement and not supplement bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the region, on the basis of complete unanimity of all decisions and total exclusion of contentious issues from the ambit of this cooperation.

It was also agreed that, if the voluntary contributions made by member-countries were insufficient for financing the agreed programmes, they should be

free to seek assistance from external sources consistent with the principles of this regional cooperation. The technical committees have been vested with enough flexibility in the utilisation of the financial allocations. The countries that provide the technical experts will pay for salaries and travel expenses, while the countries to which they are assigned will meet their local expenses.

The preambular paragraphs of the draft declaration deal with the rationale of this regional cooperation, the principles of peace, amity and good neighbourliness that provided the motivation, and the shared commitment of the seven countries to non-alignment.

The joint communique will spell out the institutional arrangements made for this cooperation. The Foreign Secretaries, serving as a standing committee of SARC, will meet as often as required to carry forward the agreed action programme. In addition, there will be at least two meetings a year at the level of Foreign Secretaries in their capacity as representatives of their respective governments, while the Foreign Ministers will meet once a year to provide the institutional frame for this regional cooperation.

At the conclusion of their two-day talks in Delhi, the seven Foreign Secretaries were to go to Jaipur this afternoon for a quiet week-end to continue their exchanges informally following the Commonwealth example, before getting back in time for the ministerial meeting on Monday. But the trip had to be cancelled because Jaipur airport was water-logged due to heavy rain. They will visit Agra tomorrow.

Ministers Meet 1 Aug

Madras THE HINDU in English 2 Aug 83 p 9

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text] NEW DELHI, Aug. 1--The first meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the South Asia Seven--India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and the Maldives--on regional cooperation lasted barely an hour after the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, inaugurated it today with an eloquent plea to utilise their collective capabilities for the common good of their peoples.

After the External Affairs Minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, was unanimously chosen chairman of the conference, the other six Foreign Ministers made the customary speeches stressing the importance of regional cooperation among the developing countries as part of their quest for collective self-reliance.

The draft declaration on South Asia cooperation and the text of the joint communique were adopted with hardly an discussion, except on one point relating to the timing of the proposed summit meeting of the South Asia Seven, at what turned out to be the shortest and tamest meeting ever in the history of international conferences. The Bangladesh Foreign Minister wanted a specific mention in the joint communique that the heads of Government of the seven countries would meet in 1984, while the other six preferred to leave it vague

by saying that the summit would be held at an appropriate time as suggested by the drafting committee.

Joint declaration today: It was decided to sort out this point through private consultations tongith before the Foreign Ministers reassemble tomorrow to sign the joint declaration and issue the joint communique. Another issue on which they intended to exchange notes was the concomitant suggestiosn by Bangladesh that the proposed summit in 1984 should formally launch an association of South Asia regional cooperation on the lines of the Association of South-East Asia Nations (ASEAN) to institutionalise it.

Along with the declaration and the joint communique, a document embodying the major conclusions of the nine technical groups will be released tomorrow spelling out in detail the nature and extent of the regional cooperation envisaged in the fields of agriculture, rural development, telecommunications, postal services, meteorology, public health and population studies, science and technology, culture, arts and sports. The Foreign Ministers formally approved these recommendations along with the provision for the formation of action committees by the countries concerned within the group which are interested in particular areas of cooperation.

Mrs. Gandhi reflected the true spirit of this regional cooperation when she said in her inaugural address that, apart from avoiding mention of their bilateral differences, the South Asian countries should aim at concentrating on th=what united than divided them in their efforts for peaceful development through collective self-reliance. The meeting of the Foreign Ministers, brief as it was, concluded on this happy note with all the participants without any exception living up to this expectation in their observations on the purpose of this regional cooperation.

Historic event: Speaking soon after taking over the chairmanship, Mr. Narasimha Rao, said the South Asia Regional Cooperation (SARC) was also a testimony to "our recognition of our vast collective capabilities and a measure of our determination to use them for our common good" (reports PTI).

All the Foreign Ministers described the setting up of SARC as a historic event.

Mr. Rao said the goals the seven countries had set for themselves touched the very core of collective self-reliance and sought to remove poverty, hunger and disease. The integrated programme of action they hoped to launch would embody concrete schemes in specific areas of cooperation.

One was aware that there was no quick and easy solution to the problems the countries in the South Asian region had to content within their efforts to improve the quality of life of their people.

"The path of cooperation we have chosen will call for much accommodation and adjustment. Our seven countries have decided to embark on this voyage after long deliberation and conscious effort. If we succeed, as I think we will, we would have ushered in new era of friendship and cooperation in South Asia," Mr. Rao said.

Meet once a year: Pakistan's Foreign Minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, shared the view that the Foreign Ministers of the region should meet once a year. No other region needed harmonious and cooperative relations among its States more than South Asia, he said.

Each one of the seven countries had its own priorities, predilections and preferences. But these "understandable diversities" according to him did not involve any real contradiction. "Through a sensitive appreciation of one another's concerns, we can devise appropriate ways for seeking accommodation for harmonising needs and for reconciling competing demands because, basically, there is a community of interests that bring us together," he said.

Two-pronged approach: Describing the meeting as a unique and historic event, the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh, Mr. Shama-Ud-Doha, outlined a two-pronged approach to maintain the viability of the venture and sustain its momentum.

The first was to reaffirm unequivocally their conviction in and commitment to the concept and process of South Asian regional cooperation and unambiguously define their aims and objectives.

The second was to consider giving practical effect to their declared intentions by effectively gearing and harnessing their national governmental machinery to take cognisance of the activities envisaged and in turn enabling action. At the same time they might consider an integrated institutional framework to pursue regional cooperative programmes.

Mr. Doha suggested that as a demonstration of their political will to make regional cooperation visible, the national capitals could be linked by air and by modern telecommunication system to enable the members to communicate with each other even at the highest level.

Mutual trust: The Foreign Minister of Bhutan, Mr. Lyonpo Dawa Tsering, said the real task before the region was to "break down the psychological and emotional barriers which have so often in the past bedevilled relations among our countries."

Step by step, through a process of cooperation and accommodation in various fields and through regular meetings they would have to create mutual trust, understanding and appreciation of one another's problems and aspirations. That would not be an easy task nor could it be achieved overnight. It would require patience and political will in abundant measure, he said.

Text of Resolution

Madras THE HINDU in English 3 Aug 83 p 7

[Text] NEW DELHI, Aug. 2--Following is the text of the declaration on South Asian regional cooperation adopted today at the South Asian Foreign Ministers' conference.

"The Foreign Ministers of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka,

Conscious of the common problems and aspirations of the peoples of South Asia and the need to accelerate their economic and social development through regional cooperation:

Convinced that regional cooperation in South Asia is beneficial, desirable and necessary and that it will help promote the welfare and improve the quality of life of the peoples of the region;

Convinced further that increased cooperation, contacts and exchanges among the countries of the region will contribute to the promotion of friendship, amity and understanding among their peoples;

Recognising that each country of the region has an effective contribution to make to the promotion of collective self-reliance;

Noting that regional cooperation should be based on and in turn contribute to mutual trust, understanding and sympathetic appreciation of the national aspirations of the countries of the region;

Mindful of the declaration on collective self-reliance among non-aligned and other developing countries adopted at the Seventh Non-Aligned Summit held in New Delhi which called upon all countries concerned to mobilise all necessary resources and deploy the requisite means in support of sub-regional, regional and inter-regional cooperation among non-aligned and other developing countries.

Affirming the determination of their respective Governments to make joint efforts for promoting such cooperation;

Do hereby declare the collective resolve of their governments to pursue actively South Asian regional cooperation with the following objectives, principles, institutional and financial arrangements and to launch an integrated programme of action;

And to this end have agreed as follows:

(1) Objectives and Principles;

(A) Objectives:

(1) The objectives of South Asian regional cooperation shall be:

(a) To promote the welfare of the people's of South Asia and to improve their quality of life;

(b) To accelerate economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region and to provide all individuals the opportunity to live in dignity and to realise their full potential;

(c) To promote and strengthen collective self-reliance among the countries of South Asia;

- (d) To contribute to mutual trust, understanding and appreciation of one another's problems;
- (e) To promote active collaboration and mutual assistance in the economic, social, cultural, technical and scientific fields;
- (f) To strengthen cooperation with other developing countries;
- (g) To strengthen cooperation among themselves in international forums on matters of common interest, and
- (h) To cooperate with international and regional organisations with similar aims and purposes.

(B) Principles:

- (2) Such cooperation shall be based on respect for the principles of sovereign equality, territorial integrity, political independence, non-interference in internal affairs of other States and mutual benefit.
- (3) Such cooperation shall not be a substitute for bilateral and multilateral cooperation but shall complement them.
- (4) Such cooperation shall not be inconsistent with bilateral and multilateral obligations.

(II) Institutional arrangements:

(A) Technical committee:

- (5) A technical committee, open to participation of all countries of the region, shall be responsible for the implementation, coordination and monitoring of the programmes in each area of cooperation, with the following terms of reference:
 - (a) Determination of the potential and the scope of regional cooperation in agreed areas;
 - (b) Formulation of programmes of action and preparation of projects;
 - (c); Determination of financial implications of the sectoral programme of action;
 - (d) Formulation of recommendations regarding the apportionment of costs;
 - (e) Implementation and coordination of sectoral programmes of action; and
 - (f) Monitoring of progress of implementation.
- (6) The technical committees shall submit periodic reports to the standing committee.

(7) The chairmanship of the technical committee shall rotate among the countries of the region in alphabetical order, every two years.

(8) The technical committees may, inter-alia, use the following mechanisms and modalities, if and when considered necessary;

- (a) Meetings of heads of national technical agencies; (b) Meetings of experts in specific fields;
- (c) Contacts amongst recognised centres of excellence in the region. These centres may be reinforced and extended as considered feasible and desirable for the optimum use of the resources of the region for meeting the requirements of the cooperation programme.

(B) Action committees:

(9) In the case of projects involving more than two countries but not all the countries of the region, action committees comprising the countries concerned may be set up for their implementation, with the prior approval of the standing committee.

(C) Standing committee:

(10) A standing committee shall be established at the level of Foreign Secretaries for the coordination and monitoring of South Asian regional cooperation with the following terms of reference:

- (a) Approval of projects and programmes, and the modalities of their financing;
- (b) Determination of inter-sectoral priorities and overall coordination of programmes of action;
- (c) Mobilisation of regional and external resources and
- (d) Identification of new areas of cooperation based on appropriate studies.

(11) The standing committee shall meet as often as is deemed necessary but at least once a year.

(12) The standing committee shall make a reference, as and when necessary, to the Foreign Ministers for decisions on policy guidelines, both in respect of the approval of projects/programmes as well as the authorisation of modalities for financing. The standing committee shall provide necessary support services for meetings of Ministers.

(D) General provisions:

(13) Decisions at all levels shall be taken on the basis of unanimity.

(14) Bilateral and contentious issues shall be excluded from the deliberations.

(III) Financial arrangements:

(15) The participation of each country in the financial costs of the programmes of cooperation shall be voluntary.

(16) Each technical committee shall make recommendations for the apportionment of the costs for implementing the programmes proposed by it, taking into account inter-alia the following guidelines;

(a) Except to the extent otherwise agreed, the cost of travel and subsistence for participants in seminars, workshops and training and other programmes shall be met by their respective Governments and the cost of organising seminars, workshops and training and other programmes may be met by the host country or apportioned among participants in proportion to the facilities availed of or financed from external sources;

(b) Except to the extent otherwise agreed, the cost of subsistence for experts shall be met by the receiving countries and the cost of travel and/or salary by the experts may be paid for by the sending countries, or shared among participating countries or financed from external sources;

(c) Other costs, including the costs of preparation of studies, shall be shared on a mutually agreed basis, and

(c) In the case of long-term projects, the technical committee concerned shall estimate the costs involved and shall submit recommendations to the standing committee on the modalities for meeting the costs.

(17) In the case of projects and programmes for which sufficient financial resources cannot be mobilised within the region, recourse may be had to external assistance from appropriate sources, with the approval of the standing committee.

Done in New Delhi on the second day of August in the year 1983.

Sd: For Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

CSO: 4600/1491

ACTIVITIES OF CPI-M LEADER IN MOSCOW REPORTED

Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 31 Jul 83 p 1

[Text] MOSCOW, July 30--Mr Jyoti Basu said today that the Communist Party of the Soviet Union had agreed to keep in touch with the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and continue discussions on the latter's request for the establishment of party-to-party relations, reports PTI.

Mr Basu held discussions here yesterday with Mr Vadim Zagladin, First Deputy Chief of the International Department of the CPSU, and the academician, Mr Rostislav Ulyanovsky, Deputy Chief of the department.

The discussion on party-to-party relations was in continuation of the talk Mr Basu had here in 1980 with Mr Boris Ponamaryev, CPSU Secretary and head of the International department.

Mr Basu noted in his talk yesterday how the CPI(M) had now established relations with the Communist parties in China, Romania, North Korea, Vietnam and Cuba and its regular discussions even with the Italian Communist Party. He wanted similar formalization of relations with the CPSU, which maintains correspondence with the CPI(M) and invites (CPI-(M) leaders to the Soviet Union.

The CPSU now recognizes only the Communist Party of India led by Mr C. Rajeswara Rao, but has hinted that the two Communist parties in India should come together.

Mr Basu agreed with CPSU representatives that there was no hurry and that they should keep in touch. Mr Basu said that CPSU representatives "know our views on foreign policy" and know too that we support Mrs Gandhi's Government in some spheres.

He discussed Indo-Soviet Cooperation in trade and industry, with particular reference to West Bengal, at meetings he had with Mr Aleksey Manzhulo, Deputy Minister for Foreign Trade, yesterday and with Mr V. I. Litvinenko, Deputy Chairman of the Soviet State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, on Thursday.

Mr Basu wanted the Soviet Union to add to their West Bengal shopping list, which now includes jute, tea and leather and to take up new power projects. He said it was agreed that the discussions should be continued between him and Soviet representatives in Delhi and Calcutta as ultimately decisions had to be taken by the Soviet and the Indian Governments.

CSO: 4600/1492

MORE REPORTAGE ON WEAPONS PURCHASE, DEVELOPMENT

Minister on Defense Production

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 21 Jul 83 p 9

[Text]

NEW DELHI, July 20.

THE prototype of the main battle tank will be ready by the end of this year, the defence minister, Mr. R. Venkataraman, announced here today.

He told the parliamentary consultative committee on defence that a prototype of the chassis of the tank had rolled out of the Avadi factory near Madras earlier this week.

The turret of the tank was now being fixed after which technical evaluation would be started. It is understood that the prototype will first be tried with an imported engine.

Mr. Venkataraman disclosed that Bharat Dynamics Ltd., a public sector undertaking of the defence ministry, was setting up facilities for the manufacture of second generation missiles. Production of these missiles was expected to begin next year.

The consultative committee met mainly to discuss the performance of the defence industrial units which have achieved significant increases in production and profits.

In reply to questions, Mr. Venkataraman said the defence ministry was looking for an airborne early warning and control system (AWACS). He said with the induction of new equipment, the Indian air force was in a position to fully meet its responsibility.

Reviewing the performance of the defence undertakings, the minister said that the production of the nine units went up from Rs. 483.7 crores in 1980-81 to Rs. 1,067.7 crores during 1982-83. The profits went up from Rs. 20.5 crores to Rs. 71.4 crores.

The minister said the outlook for the current year was promising and production was expected to go up to Rs. 1,260 crores and profits to Rs. 92.3 crores.

HIMALAYAN RALLY

Mr. Venkataraman also referred to the variety of equipment being produced by the defence undertaking which had launched new expansion programmes. Both HAL and BEL were setting up new units.

Following the policy decision to promote exports of defence items, it was expected that the exports would exceed Rs. 41 crores in the current year.

The minister also told the members that it was proposed to organise a Himalayan rally of the vehicles produced by defence undertakings.

Some members stressed the importance of good labour relations in the defence undertakings.

It was also stated that production planning should ensure that equipment did not become outdated by the time it rolled out of the factory.

MIG 31's Expected

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 22 Jul 83 p 1

[Text]

NEW DELHI, July 21: India is going to acquire an advanced version of a Soviet MiG which has been claimed by the Russians to be superior to the F-16.

This was hinted at by the defence minister, Mr. R. Venkataraman, at a meeting of the parliamentary consultative committee yesterday when some members talked of India's preparedness to meet the challenge from its neighbours.

Dr. Subramaniam Swamy (JP) said India should have both Pakistan and China in mind when equipping itself with the latest deep penetration aircraft.

Mr. Venkataraman did not name the advanced version of MiG, but it was also partly because the western experts and the Soviet defence establishment differ on the new version's nomenclature.

ADVANCED MODEL

India is already preparing to first assemble and then manufacture the MiG-23, which is in service with the IAF and will roll out in April next year. This tactical strike and close support aircraft is a derivative of the basic MiG-23, which is in service with the IAF.

The new version, MiG-31, which is under development, will be part of a more advanced air defence system. Its acquisition was discussed between the two countries during the defence minister's recent visit to Moscow.

India has almost finalised arrangements for the acquisition of a new transport aircraft, Ilyushin-76 to replace the AN-12, also a Soviet plane.

CSO: 4600/1473

IMPROVED T-72 TANKS RECEIVED FROM SOVIET UNION

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 25 Jul 83 p 1

[Text] NEW DELHI, July 24 (UNI)--INDIA has received a new version of the T-72 tanks fitted with a very sophisticated laser range finder and capable of operating with devastating effect in nuclear, chemical and biological warfare.

The laser range finder will give the tank four different projectiles the maximum blast effect and "a first round hit capability."

The improved T-72 tanks, supplied by the Soviet Union, are equipped with a 125 mm gun, the biggest and the most powerful gun in the world today. The tanks have an armour which no known ammunition in the world can pierce.

Field Trials

Authoritative sources said the new tanks are now undergoing field trials. Preliminary results in local conditions had demonstrated the "requisitic fire-power and manoeuvrability" as laid down by the Indian army to meet the new challenges well beyond the turn of the present century.

The new tanks mark a significant improvement over the earlier versions of the T-72s, of which some regiments are now operational in the Indian armoured corps.

Sources said the Indian army would urge the ministry of defence to enter into a contract with the suppliers for indigenous production of the improved T-72 with laser range finders.

The laser range finder, which replaces the two optical devices on the earlier version of the T-72s, will give the tank maximum blast effect for each shot.

Lower silhouette of the tanks poses a smaller target for the enemy and is difficult to detect in operational conditions. Sources said "in a fast fluid battle, laser ranger gives the weapons and the vehicle a very high manoeuvrability and enables it to quickly change to alternate positions. In fact, in the shortest possible time the tanks can shift from the defensive to the attack positions."

The new tanks will carry a total of 40 rounds--six high explosive anti-tank projectiles, 12 armoured piercing fin stabilising discarding sabot (APFSDS) and 22 high explosives.

A new computer will give commands to the automatic loader system in the tank to fire various rounds of shots rapidly at different targets.

Sources declined to reveal the number of new T-72s received or the place where trials were now on.

The tanks will have a three-man crew instead of four as in other tanks of the world. They will have a commander, a gunner and a driver.

The new tanks have a maximum road speed of 80 km per hour and a range of 500 km. Additional field tanks can be mounted at the rear of the hull of the tank to enable it to operate for several days in battlefield conditions.

The tanks have a 125 mm smooth bore gun as its main armament. Its secondary armament includes a 7.62 mm PKT machine gun co-axial with the main gun, and a 12.7 mm DSHK anti-aircraft gun.

Night Vision

Sources said the new tank's gun will fire "a mix of chemical energy projectiles of high lethality, have a devastating rapid rate of fire when needed, and be extremely accurate to perhaps 3,500 metres even when on the move."

The tanks can climb to an angle of 60 degrees and can also move in submerged conditions. The tanks are fitted with a snorkel giving it deep fording capability. Rollers are also mounted on the tank to enable it to clear anti-personnel and anti-tank mines.

CSO: 4600/1482

PRESS REPORTS PLANS FOR DEFENSE PURCHASES

Helicopters, Missiles from UK

Madras THE HINDU in English 18 Jul 83 p 1

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text] NEW DELHI, July 17--An agreement is expected to be signed any day with Britain for the supply of 20 Sea King helicopters, equipped with Sea Eagle missiles for anti-submarine warfare at an estimated cost of Rs. 360 crores.

The purchase of these 20 helicopters, in the wake of the firm orders placed for six Sea Harriers with an option to acquire another six and the Jaguar deal involving the supply of 116 of these deep penetration strike aircraft, will push up the cost of total arms procurement from Britain along with many other routine items to Rs. 3,000 crores.

After the Soviet Union, Britain is emerging as the second major supplier of arms to India, the largest among all Western countries including France, which won the Mirage-2000 contract for supply of 40 aircraft, but lost the helicopter order to Britain. The French, in the race for so many other items including self-propelled guns and the latest missile systems, may still overtake Britain in due course with their vast range of weapons.

The Final Choice

After a prolonged debate in the Defence Ministry and expert evaluation of the comparative merits by Indian naval experts, the Government finally opted for the British-made Sea King helicopters in preference to the French-manufactured Super Pumas on political, technical and financial considerations. The External Affairs Ministry finally tilted the scales in favour of Britain after taking all these factors into consideration.

The Sea Kings will be supplied by Westland Helicopters Ltd. while the Sea Eagle surface-skimming missiles, equipped with what is called a ripple-fire capability for automatically firing a second one in sequence to destroy the target if it escapes the first strike, will be provided by British Aerospace. The representatives of the two companies are at present in Delhi, finalising the combined transaction.

Superior, Less Expensive

The French were depending rather heavily on their Exocet missiles for clinching the Super Puma deal, but the British were able to convince India that the Sea Eagle represented a superior system with a vastly extended range for anti-submarine warfare. The Indian experts who, at one stage, seemed to prefer the French helicopters, subsequently verred round to the view that the British-built Sea Kings equipped with the Sea Eagle missiles were relatively superior besides being less expensive in terms of the total cost of the transaction.

Russians Not in the Race

At one stage of this bitter competition, the British and the French were equally apprehensive that the Russians might outmanoeuvre both of them by offering their latest helicopters which would cost less than half besides being sold on deferred payment. But somehow, Moscow has not bothered to enter this race for whatever reason, since it is known that the Soviet Navy has equally formidable helicopters for both air-to-surface sea operations and anti-submarine warfare.

No Firm U.S. Commitment

The Defence Ministry has yet to decide from where to acquire the 155 mm self-propelled guns for its armoured divisions. The assurances given by the U.S. Secretary of State, Mr. George Shultz, during his recent visit to Delhi, contained no firm commitment that the Reagan Administration would waive its right to cancel on political considerations the contracted deliveries without compensation even after advance payment had been made to the manufacturers of these guns. The French are hoping to bag this contract with their superior gun although the price is very much higher than the American howitzer which is much lighter and can be airlifted since it weighs only six tonnes.

Enormous Burden

There is a lot of other defence equipment which many countries are offering to supply on varying terms depending on technical performance and payment procedures. The process of re-equipping and modernising the three Services to increase their mobility and firepower is going to be spread over several years, imposing an enormous financial burden.

Purchase Contract Signed

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 20 Jul 83 p 7

[Text] India signed a deal with Britain on Tuesday for the purchase of 20 Sea King anti-submarine warfare helicopters, reports UNI.

Three separate contracts running into about 300 pages were initialled on Tuesday by Defence Ministry officials and top representatives of three major British defence firms.

Under the deal, Britain will supply 112 Sea King Mark V Missile-fitted helicopters to the Indian Navy, with India retaining the option to go in for another eight helicopters.

The deal was signed after a day-long meeting between Defence Ministry officials and representatives of the British firms.

One contract was signed with the Westland firm for the supply of Sea King airframes, the second contract was signed with Rolls Royce for uprated gnome turboshaft engines and the third contract with British Aerospace for the sea-skimming all-to-surface standoff missile, the Sea Eagle.

India would become the first country to receive the third generation anti-shipping missiles outside Britain. The manufacturers claim the Sea Eagle has a range of 84 kilometres, about 30 kilometres more than the French Exocet

The Pakistan Navy's Sea King helicopters are equipped with Exocet missiles.

All the Sea King helicopters will be supplied to the Indian Navy in fly away condition.

The Indian Navy will send a team of specialists to Britain for advanced training in radar, avionics and weapons systems.

The Sea Kings will have a complement of five--two pilots, one ratar operator, one sonar-lapad operator for the anti-submarine Warfare role and one operator for the anti-shipping role.

According to the contract, deliveries would commence within 24 months.

CSO: 4600/1467

REPORT ON GANDHI 24 JUL SPEECH TO CONGRESS-I MP'S

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 25 Jul 83 p 1

[Text] NEW DELHI, July 24--THE Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, today charged the opposition parties with aggravating the Punjab situation and encouraging the agitators in Assam which might again become tense as a result of this encouragement.

Addressing the party M.P.s on the eve of the Parliament session, Mrs. Gandhi said the opposition parties had even overlooked the fact that Punjab being a border state, developments there would have wider ramifications. Despite this, they had done everything to make the problem there more acute, she said.

The people of India, Mrs. Gandhi said had seen how the opposition parties had tried to "solve" the Punjab problem which was a national problem and not just that of the ruling party.

Little Calm

In Assam, there had been a little calm for various reasons and she hoped that this atmosphere would continue so that problems could be solved. However, she did not know what all would be said by the opposition to encourage the agitators in the coming days.

In her 40-minute speech, Mrs. Gandhi touched upon a wide range of issues pertaining to developments not forgetting to take note of heartening events such as India's victory in the Prudential Cup cricket and the commissioning of the Kalpakkam atomic power plant.

Dowry Deaths

Expressing her concern over the rising incidence of dowry deaths, Mrs. Gandhi said that a new stringent bill to check dowry deaths would be brought by the government. The bill had to be foolproof to provide protection to victims but it should also be ensured that it was not misused.

Referring to the abuse of children who were forcibly made to beg, Mrs. Gandhi said the government would re-examine the existing legal provisions to check this to ascertain whether these were adequate. She also hoped that the existing law was being implemented properly.

J. & K. Developments

On the developments in Jammu and Kashmir, she said it was not a happy picture. However, "in our set-up, there are some things we have to live with. But our concern is for unity and integrity of the country," she said.

In Jammu and Kashmir, the Congress (I) had not started the talk of electoral understanding with the National Conference. It was the other side that started the move and then came out with the announcement that there was no possibility of such an understanding, Mrs. Gandhi said.

She clarified that no names of the candidates or seats were discussed with the National Conference. It was for the party M.Ps. from the state to see how to deal with the situation, she added.

Non-Cong. & States

Mrs. Gandhi said opposition parties were running some of the state governments and the Centre had never tried to topple them.

With regard to the government employees' strike in Andhra Pradesh, Mrs. Gandhi said "we are not encouraging the strike but some of our people do sympathise with the employees."

She also said that her remarks regarding the retirement age of government employees in Andhra Pradesh had been misconstrued by the press. She had not given her views. Her party's government had earlier raised the retirement age and the party was bound to have a view on this issue, she said.

Mrs. Gandhi took note of the widespread damage caused by the drought and floods and conveyed to the victims the party's deep sympathies.

She also talked about the recruitment of the candidates belonging to the minorities in the public sector and referred to a cell in the home ministry which would go into this question.

On the TV expansion programme, Mrs. Gandhi said it would cover 70 per cent of the population and regretted that the 30 per cent would still be without this facility. However, the new transmitters would be deployed as per certain norms.

Pat for Scientists

She said that the ministry of information and broadcasting had acquired an increased responsibility and hoped that the TV programmes would be of a high order with entertainment as well as education value. "We must give direction to younger generation, especially children."

Mrs. Gandhi complimented scientists and engineers and others on the commissioning of the indigenous atomic power generation unit at Kalpakkam.

The Prime Minister also recalled her recent European tour and said India had friendly relations with all the countries visited by her. She regretted that the foreign press mis-represented the Indian situation and concentrated only on calamities. The foreigners did not get to read the name of India unless there was a calamity here.

Mrs. Gandhi also contrasted the affluence in developed countries with the poverty in developing countries by saying that some countries were dumping milk and butter into the sea while the people in poor countries were starving. This was negation of the word "civilised," she said.

CSO: 4600/1482

MUKHERJEE: PAYMENTS TO IMF TO BEGIN IN 1984-85

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 22 Jul 83 p 3

[Text] MR Pranab Mukherjee, the Union Finance Minister, told reporters at Calcutta Airport on Thursday that India would start to repay the loans to the International Monetary Fund in 1984-85. The country's debt servicing charges, till now, was "manageable". This would remain so till 1985-86, provided "we don't take any more loans", he said.

The Finance Minister, who arrived in Calcutta from Delhi, said that the rate of inflation in the country was around 7% in the six weeks ending the first week of July. He, however, pointed out that the rise in the wholesale price index in the six weeks ending the first week of July was 1.5% against 2.6% in the corresponding period last year.

Mr Mukherjee said that in response to the West Bengal Government's request, the Union Government had agreed to extend a non-plan loan of Rs 150 crores for the Second Hooghly Bridge Project. However, it could not accede to the State Government's request to make the amount interest free. Of the Rs 150 crores, about Rs 57 crores had already been given for the construction work.

The Minister added that any additional expenditure for the construction of the bridge would have to be borne by the State Government. The West Bengal Government had been requested to take the initiative to complete the bridge within the stipulated period. A monitoring committee formed with the representatives of the Union Government, the State Government and those entrusted with the execution of the project work, would look after the progress of the work so that the speed was maintained.

UNI adds: Mr Pranab Mukherjee said in Calcutta on Thursday that West Bengal is the only State, which might not achieve the Sixth Plan target and fail to spend Central assistance of Rs 3,500 crores during the plan period.

He told reporters, after attending an extended meeting of the West Bengal Pradesh Congress Committee (I), that the State Government had spent Rs 1,910 crores and said "I apprehend it would not be able to spend the rest."

CSO: 4600/1476

DEVELOPMENTS IN DEALINGS WITH IMF REPORTED

Mukherjee Remarks in Lok Sabha

Madras THE HINDU in English 27 Jul 83 p 7

[Text] NEW DELHI, July 26--The Finance Minister Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, told the Lok Sabha today that the International Monetary Fund has approved India's third year programme of extended arrangement under which the country would draw another 1200 million Special Drawing Rights (about Rs. 1292.40 crores) between July 1983 and July 1984.

During the current fiscal year, India has indicated its intention to limit the total outstanding domestic credit to a maximum of Rs. 101,321 crores as against Rs. 86,021 crores in 1982-83. "This implies," he said, expansion of domestic credit by about 17.8 per cent during the current year.

"I am sure that this House will agree that this credit limit is in accordance with the objectives of consolidating control over inflation while providing adequate support for recovery in growth," he said.

The total net credit outstanding from the banking system to the Central and State Governments at the end of 1983-84 is proposed to be limited to Rs. 41,334 crores as against Rs. 35,234 crores at the end of 1982-83. Thus the increase in net credit to Government from the banking system in 1983-84 would be Rs. 6100 crores as against the actual increase in net credit to the Government in 1982-83 of Rs. 4,489 crores.

During 1983-84, he said the Government intended to limit the financial contracting and guaranteeing of non-concessional external loans with maturity of 10 to 12 years to 1.5 billion SDRs (about Rs. 1,615.50 crores). This limit excludes not only aid credits but also loans which have maturities exceeding 12 years.

"Prudent Management"

"Looking to the requirements of the economy for external resources," the Minister said, "this ceiling is quite adequate and is also in conformity with our policy of prudent management of foreign debt." He said he was confident that the programme for 1983-84 under the extended arrangement would help

achieve further economic progress in line with the original medium-term balance of payments adjustment programme. Agricultural policies in 1983-84 had been designed to give a boost to production. Emphasis would be placed on improving the production of crops which had important implications for the balance of payments. In line with the targets of Sixth Plan, large investments would be made in key sectors such as petroleum and petroleum products, fertilizers, coal and edible oils to increase production capacity. The programme would aim at promoting exports. Import substitution continued to be one of the main elements of the country's strategy.

Mr. Mukherjee said the programme for 1983-84 was based on the Sixth Plan and "reflects our own priorities and policies which have been endorsed by Parliament. The Government is committed to the successful implementation of the programme and will continue to ensure that our basic policies are not compromised during the course of implementation of the extended arrangement."

The Minister said under the second year's programme of the extended arrangement with the IMF, India had the right to draw SDR 1,800 millions between July 1982 and July 30, 1983. As in the first year, the second year's programme had been successfully completed and purchases envisaged in the programme had been made. Together with the purchases of SDR 900 millions under the first year programme (1981-82), India had so far drawn 2,700 million SDRs.

Policy Statement to IMF

Madras THE HINDU in English 27 Jul 83 p 7

[Text] NEW DELHI, July 26--The Union Finance Minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, has written to Mr. Jacques de Larosiere, IMF Managing Director that during 1982-83, India's "real economic growth was reduced to about two per cent with a reduction in income in the agricultural sector and slow down in industrial growth" because of severe drought." As a result of the reduction in income and additional expenditure related to drought relief, the budgetary position came under strain". In his letter to Mr. De Larosiere, the Minister has said that the Government of India would consult the IMF "on the adoption of any appropriate measures consistent with the national policies. The Government will review with the Fund before January 30, 1984, the progress made in implementing the programme and in particular the policies and measures relating to public finance, imports and exports and reach such understandings with the Fund as are necessary for the purpose of achieving the objectives of the programme. Earlier understandings continue to apply during 1983-84".

Decline in farm output: "In its "Statement of policies" given to the IMF, the Government of India has stated that during 1983-84 it was hopeful of limiting the increase in the wholesale prices to seven per cent and would endeavour to achieve a recovery in real economic growth to 6.65 per cent which is an objective if weather is normal. The borrowing programme takes into account the lagged effect of the decline in agricultural output".

Defending the increase in the fertilizer subsidy from Rs. 390 crores in 1981-82 to Rs. 800 crores in 1983-84, the statement says that this "increase

in subsidy reflects the carrying costs of fertilizer stocks because of lower growth in consumption of fertilizers due to farmers' resistance to the increase in prices. The Government has initiated a detailed analysis of fertilizer pricing in its entirety in view of the Government's objective of avoiding an undue fiscal burden and ensuring that domestic fertilizer prices are broadly in line with economic costs, while taking account of the need to provide encouragement to increasing the use of fertilizers, particularly in areas where its use is very low".

As for its policy relating to foreign investments, the statement says, "during recent years licences have been granted liberally and exemptions from licensing requirements have been expanded and the scope of allowable activity of large and foreign investment firms has been increased consistent with national priorities. Steps have been taken to ensure that this thrust of policy will be carried forward in 1983-84".

"Export promotion": Explaining its exchange rate policy, the statement says that "the Government will continue to pursue a realistic policy in regard to existing rates keeping in mind, inter alia their objective with regard to the overall balance of payments and export promotion".

The other excerpts from the statement of policies presented to the IMF are:

(1) The Government's policies will be "directed towards increasing efficiency and productivity and protecting international competitiveness. In particular the programme for 1983-84 will aim at promoting expansion of exports while reducing import restrictions in more important areas.

(2) The current account deficit in the balance of payments is projected by SDR 3.5 billions, equivalent to 2.1 per cent of the gross domestic product. With a further increase in disbursements of commercial loans in line with cautious but expanded borrowing programme the overall deficit is expected to be reduced to 1.5 billion SDRs in 1983-84. New measures introduced in the 1983-84. New measures introduced in the 1983-84 budget including the increase in the excise duty on cement, further increase in auxiliary and individual customs duty and indirect taxes will yield an additional Rs. 720 crores. Increased railway and postal tariff will yield Rs. 440 crores in additional revenues in 1983-84.

(3) It is likely that additional expenditure beyond that provided in the 1983-84 budget will be required due to increases in non-Plan expenditure on account of public sector wages and other emergencies and increases in plan outlays in some key sectors. Taking these factors into account the government projects that public savings will rise to 5.4 per cent of GDP in 1983-84. This would represent a continuation of significant increase in the ratio achieved during the programme period (over 50 per cent since 1980-81). Central public sector savings are projected to increase to 3.5 per cent of GDP in 1983-84. This increase reflects the strength of the Government's efforts to increase the resource mobilisation to finance increased plan investments.

(4) Credit policy will remain committed to the objective of consolidating control over inflation while providing adequate support for a recovery in growth. The financial programme for 1983-84 is designed to be consistent with a recovery in real growth to 6 to 6.5 per cent and an overall increase in the general price level to 7 per cent.

Time deposits are projected to continue to increase at 16.9 per cent strongly reflecting in part an increase in the interest rate payable to time deposits introduced in October, 1982. In 1983-84 allowing for the estimated deficit in external transactions, total domestic credit expansion has to be limited to 17.8 per cent. Within the total, the increase in net credit to Government has to be no more than Rs. 61 billions.

The Government intends to limit net credit to the government and total domestic credit within the ceilings given in the following table. Corrective measures will be taken promptly if developments indicate that the ceilings may be exceeded:

Ceilings on net credit to Government and total domestic credit

	Amount outstanding on March 31, 1983	In billions of rupees		
		Ceilings amount outstanding on Sept. 30 1983	Dec. 30 1983	March 31 1984
Net credit to Govt.	382.34	385.89	398.09	413.34
Total domestic credit	860.21	937.00	991.06	1,013.21

The Government has followed a policy of gradually increasing interest rates on government securities and its policy will continue to be guided inter-alia by the need to enhance the efficiency of the financial system.

(5) Private savings: The Government is continuing its efforts to strengthen the domestic capital markets so as to encourage private savings and reduce reliance on bank financing for investment needs of the strong enterprises. Measures introduced so far during the programme include increases in the interest rates on convertible and non-convertible company debentures and preference shares. These measures contributed to a quantum jump in capital raisings by companies in 1981-82 to Rs. 5.29 billions. The buoyance on new issues continued in 1982-83 when 287 companies raised capital totalling Rs. 7.85 billions. To strengthen further the capital market the Government has taken steps to encourage the development of a broader secondary market for non-convertible debentures, companies issuing non-convertible debentures at par from debenture holders subject to certain limits and to a minimum holding period of one year and institutional investors in return enter into arrangements with the companies concerned to repurchase from them at par debentures so acquired.

(6) Following an increase of 2.4 million hectares in irrigation area in 1982-83, a further expansion of 2.5 million hectares is planned in 1983-84. The considerable improvements in the fertilizer distribution system in 1982-83

will continue in 1983-84 and a 12.5 per cent increase in fertilizer consumption is projected. A further increase in the area under high-yielding varieties is also expected.

(7) Allocation for petroleum sector: The Plan expenditure allocated to the petroleum sector is increased by 51 per cent in 1981-82 and to a further 58 per cent in 1982-83. The decision to devote an increasing proportion of plan outlay to expanding domestic petroleum production has been more than justified by the impressive growth in oil production which increased to 21.2 million tonnes in 1982-83 from 10.5 million tonnes in 1980-81. This increase in production over two years enabled net imports of oil to be reduced by 33 per cent to 16 million tonnes in 1982-83. A further increase in expenditure of 39 per cent is budgeted for 1983-84 when production is projected to increase to 26.3 million tonnes which will result in a further decline in imports.

The degree of self-sufficiency in petroleum which amounted to 31 per cent in 1980-81 increased to 57 per cent in 1982-83 and is now expected to reach at least 75 per cent in 1984-85. The Government's petroleum pricing policy is making a substantial contribution to resource mobilisation and is designed also to restrain consumption of petroleum products and reduce reliance on imported energy.

(8) The production capacity in six key sectors is estimated to expand in 1983-84 in line with the following schedule:

	1982-83 (estimated)	1983-84 (projected)	1984-85 (Sixth Plan original target)
Coal (million tonnes)	130.70	142.00	165.00
Electric power (end-year installed capacity in 000 MW)	38.10	42.20	51.20
Nitrogenous fertilizers (million tonnes)	5.10	5.30	5.90
Rly. freight earning traffic (billion tonne kms)	176	104	220
Steel (million tonnes)	11.70	12.80	14.30
Cement (million tonnes)	34.00	38.00	43.00

Public sector Plan outlays amounted to Rs. 215.90 billions in 1982-83 and are projected at Rs. 254.90 billions in 1983-84.

(9) A number of State Electricity Boards continue to face losses. Recently the State Electricity Boards have agreed to a programme to set tariffs at levels which generate more resources while establishing ceilings on rural electrification subsidy paid by the State Governments. Efforts are being made to effectively implement this programme in 1983-84. In 1983-84 coal and electricity pricing policies will continue to be in accordance with the Government's policy objective that these prices should reflect economic costs and generate internal resources for investment.

(10) During 1983-84 the Government will limit the official contracting and guaranteeing of non-concessional loans with maturity of one to 12 years to no more than SDR one billion. This will not include borrowing by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission of 400 million U.S. dollars which was intended to be contracted in 1982-83 but the actual contracting was completed only in April 1983. Within this ceiling, the official contracting and guaranteeing of commercial loans with a majority up to five years will be limited to 200 billion SDRs.

(11) The Government recognises that exchange rate policy has no important bearing on export growth. The rupee has been pegged to a basket of currencies of India's trading partners since September 1975. The exchange rate management followed this policy in 1981-82 and it was a factor in improved export performance. This policy was continued in 1982-83 and the Government will continue to pursue a realistic policy.

CSO: 4600/1487

GANDHI INAUGURATES NORTHEAST CHIEF MINISTERS' MEET

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 27 Jul 83 p 9

[Text] NEW DELHI, July 26--Mrs Gandhi today asked for accelerated development of the North-Eastern region and suggested that the procedural bottlenecks must be quickly got over and infrastructural development, which had been rather slow, given priority.

She was inaugurating the eighth meeting of the Committee of Ministers for Economic Development of the North-East region, attended by the Chief Ministers of the North-Eastern States and Union Territories, apart from Union Ministers concerned with the economic programmes related to the region.

Mrs Gandhi said that the broad-gauge Railway line from New Bongaigaon to Gauhati should be completed by March, 1984. There should be no further slippages. The six new railway lines in the region were also taking much time. Work on the road-bridge across the Brahmaputra, near Bhomaraguri in Tejpur, should be expedited. These projects, she said, needed priority. "We are also concerned about the upgradation of roads which have been declared as national highway". She also called for expansion of TV network in North-East expeditiously.

Mrs Gandhi also wanted special attention to be paid to maintain supply of essential commodities through the public distribution system in the region. Complaints were received frequently regarding shortage of essential commodities. The Food Corporation of India and the State Government agencies must cooperate to increase storage space so that the distribution network is at all times adequately supplied with foodgrain and other essential articles. She hoped the working group which was looking into the matter would complete its task quickly.

Mrs Gandhi wanted the assembled Ministers and executives to find a solution to the problem of "hesitancy on the part of tribal communities to adopt new methods of development of industries". She said a major problem in the implementation of development projects and in regard to the manning of posts in sensitive central organizations dealing with law and order was owing to various factors, one of them being that probably the personnel did not consider that they get proper incentive.

Mr Hiteswar Saikia, Assam Chief Minister, today asked for "massive support in terms of central investment on a sustained basis" for the North-Eastern region in order to clear the "backlog" of years, and to bring the region to the national mainstream.

Addressing the meeting of the Committee of Ministers for Development of North-Eastern region, Mr Saikia requested the committee to evolve a pragmatic strategy and plan for integrated development of the region.

CSO: 4600/1488

PAPER REPORTS STATEMENTS BY ENVOY TO PAKISTAN

Letter to Karachi Paper

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 16 Jul 83 p 7

[Text] ISLAMABAD, July 15 (PTI)--The Indian embassy here today took exception to some "uncharitable and factually incorrect remarks" made by Pakistan's Planning Minister Dr Mahbubul Haq about the Indian economy.

Such remarks about developments in India had best be avoided when "we in India are now seriously engaged in the task of winning the friendship and understanding of the people of Pakistan", an embassy spokesman said.

In a letter to the Government-controlled Pakistan Times, which had published an interview with Dr Haq last week, he said sensationalised deprecatory remarks about development countries in certain sections of the world media had been a painfully recurrent phenomenon.

However, "We thought the need for developing countries to understand sympathetically each other's economic difficulties and constraints was well understood", he added.

The spokesman was glad that Dr Haq felt that Pakistan's economy was in good shape, "but equally, the present state of health of the Indian economy is also good".

Describing Dr Haq's remarks about India having "absolute poverty and many dying of starvation on streets" there as "most uncharitable", the Indian spokesman asserted that no one was dying of starvation in India.

This had not only been repeatedly stated by responsible Indian leaders but also admitted by reputed foreign observers, he said.

And if there was malnutrition in certain sections of the Indian people, it was a phenomenon found all over the world in lesser or greater degrees, he added.

Joining issue with Dr Haq over his remark about the Indian economy being an 'industrial giant which is groaning', the spokesman said several independent international economic experts had favourably assessed the performance of the Indian economy in the recent past.

The World Bank too, in one of its recent reports, had asserted that India's performance had further improved in key infrastructural sectors like power, transport, oil and coal during the past year.

On the agricultural front also India had performed creditably well.

About Dr Haq's remarks that India was not able to export its industrial products, he pointed out that in 1982-83, the Indian exports grew by about 18 per cent in US dollars terms as against 11 per cent in the case of Pakistan.

This was so when the value of the Indian rupee had depreciated by only seven per cent vis-a-vis the US dollar while that of Pakistani rupee had declined by 30 per cent since January 1982.

Ambassador's Interview

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 17 Jul 83 p 7

[Text] ISLAMABAD, July 16 (PTI)--The proposed Indo-Pak no war pact would include a clause that the two countries would not grant military bases to any super power, Indian ambassador K D Sharma said in an interview published here today.

India did not fear that if American bases were set up in Pakistan they would be used against it but it was a fact that when super powers were involved "our people" died in wars fought for them, he said.

The two countries should therefore remove such a danger by including the clause about not giving bases, he said in the interview with the 'Jang' group of newspapers.

Mr Sharma also held out the possibility of a meeting between Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and President Gen Zia-ul-Haq of Pakistan at the September session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Mrs Gandhi, he recalled had suggested at the non-aligned summit in New Delhi that heads of state or government should represent their countries at the 38th session and India wished that Gen Zia did so. In that case the two would surely meet, he said.

Rejecting a suggestion that India and Pakistan could not have friendly relations as long as the Nehru family was in power, the Indian ambassador pointed out that all concrete steps in Indo-Pak relations had been taken during Mrs Gandhi's rule.

Such historic things as the Simla agreement and the setting up of the joint commission had come about during her rule while the Indo-Pak trade agreement had died such a death during the (Morarji) Desai regime that it had not yet been possible to revive it.

Asked about Indian objections to Pakistan's 'modest' arms purchases, Mr Sharma pointed out that India spent eight dollars per capita on defence as against 21 dollars per capita in the case of Pakistan.

Kashmir Question

In reply to a question about Kashmir, he said raising of the problem at the United Nations by Pakistan had only complicated it further.

"I think the key to the resolution of the various differences of perception between Pakistan and India will have to be found in the creation of a higher level of mutual understanding and confidence", Mr Sharma added.

The Indian ambassador also refuted a suggestion that India wanted to impose its hegemony over its neighbours.

Asked ff in the name of mediation between India and Pakistan, the United States wanted to establish an Indo-Pak combined bloc against the Soviet Union Mr Sharma said he had not heard of any mediation bid by America.

Nor was he aware whether the United States or any other country when it spoke of support for the improvement of relations between India and Pakistan, did so to establish blocs against others.

India, he pointed out was against creating or joining blocs. It was a founder member of the non-aligned movement, which again was a movement and not a bloc.

He also rejected another suggestion that India had imposed the joint commission as a condition because she wanted her economic interests to be secured in Pakistan market before entering into a non-aggression pact.

CSO: 4600/1463

ANALYST DISCUSSES RELATIONS WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES

Madras THE HINDU in English 17 Jul 83 p 2

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text] AS the South Asia Seven meet in New Delhi early next month at the Foreign Ministers' level to prepare for a regional summit in due course, once again India will be faced with the agonising question of how to evolve a right mix of relationship with the neighbouring countries by combining a measure of flexibility, an element of generosity and a spirit of accommodation with a firm commitment to certain basic values, the necessary resolve to safeguard its national interests and an unflinching determination to play its part in promoting peace and stability in the region.

It is a difficult task for a big country like India to develop and sustain mutually beneficial relations with its smaller neighbours even in the best of times, but much more so when there are other powers bent on sowing seeds of discord and exploiting their differences. It is not easy to dispel their fears and suspicions by merely voicing a well-meaning concern for their welfare or offering assistance from their development. There are occasions when even an earnest desire to help tends to arouse feelings of animosity since it is more often mistaken for a supercilious display of superiority or overbearing patronage.

Neighbourhood Diplomacy

What then should a country like India do to create better understanding and inspire greater confidence? Is it possible to make a lasting impact by making concessions from a position of strength to generate a lasting impression of goodwill and a readiness to work together in common interest or yielding to unreasonable demands under pressure in moments of controversy or crisis to placate them?

The country's neighbourhood diplomacy should serve as an integral part of its regional policies which in turn form the very basis of its foreign policy pursuits in the wider international context. It is not possible for India to play an effective role in fostering a spirit of interdependence as the very basis for increased economic cooperation unless it is able to establish closer bilateral relations with the neighbouring countries of the region.

It is a tricky situation in which India has to move forward rather warily persevering in its efforts to improve relations in areas where there is enough scope for increased cooperation, without aiming too high to achieve dramatic results or exposing itself to the hazards of failure through ill-conceived initiatives or overambitious attempts to make a big impact all at once.

There is no doubt some justification for the criticism that India has not been according a higher priority in the conduct of its foreign policy to the consolidation and expansion of its relations with neighbouring countries, whether it is due to excessive preoccupation with major international problems or lack of proper interest in more proximate issues. It has not gone unnoticed that the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, who has been travelling widely on goodwill missions has not so far paid a visit to any of the neighbouring countries since her return to power in 1980.

This cannot be attributed to heavy schedule of domestic and international commitments, since a trip to Pakistan or Sri Lanka, Nepal or Bhutan, Bangladesh or Maldives would not take any more time than a trip to Kashmir, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala which she has been doing without detriment to her official work in Delhi.

The focal point of India's neighbourhood diplomacy has been Pakistan because of the many baffling problems left over by partition. The emergence of Bangladesh as a separate sovereign nation did not resolve any of these problems other than bifurcating them. Despite its best efforts to befriend Pakistan, India has not been able to make any headway because the perverse logic of the two-nation theory propagated by the Muslim League to justify its demand for partition made Pakistan the prime victim of it.

The creation of a separate Islamic State did not help to resolve the problems of chronic poverty, religious prejudice and communal hatred that left the Indian Muslims politically backward, economically weak and emotionally forlorn in the subcontinent. It is a country without a sustaining ethos of its own, with no hard core to its sense of nationhood or spirit of national unity other than a consuming fear and hatred of India that continues to warp its outlook and distort its values.

Astonishing

One of the favourite arguments advanced by the Pakistani leadership to justify the policy of hostility towards India is that it has not reconciled itself to partition. On the contrary it is Pakistan that continues to nurse a grievance against the way the subcontinent had been partitioned, leaving the two halves separated by 1,600 km of Indian territory which inevitably led to its break-up into two separate States.

It is quite astonishing that even the intellectuals in Pakistan, who otherwise abhor the rigours of extended military rule, do not suffer from any guilt complex over the terrible atrocities committed on their Muslim brethren in the eastern wing in the name of religion, in moments of mad frenzy by treating them as no better than infidels deserving the cruel fate that had befallen them.

It is, therefore, quite astonishing to see them rationalising the irrationalities of their prejudices by pretending that, instead of becoming the prime beneficiaries of partition, they had ended up as its principal victims left with only a truncated State through Hindu machinations. No amount of reasoning by India that it has nothing to gain by undoing partition or fragmenting what is left of Pakistan can really make them accept with good grace the realities of the present power balances in the subcontinent.

The tragedy of Pakistan is that both the ruling military establishment and the frustrated politicians have a common vested interest in playing up the bogey of a continued Indian threat to its very existence, which encourages the rabble-rousers to talk of waging a new crusade some day to avenge the humiliation of the 1971 conflict.

But then India, too, suffers from its own brand of Pakistan fixation that comes in the way of a more imaginative approach to its relations with other neighbouring nations. The fact that there is very little scope for any lasting improvement in Indo-Pakistan relations need not deter India from making a more determined bid to strengthen its bonds with other South Asian States. It could afford to be a little more tolerant and even generous in its dealings with Nepal, Sri Lanka or Bhutan.

The attitudes of Pakistan and Bangladesh are, no doubt, conditioned by some common prejudices, but there is no such undercurrent of shared inhibitions in the case of other South Asian countries, except an understandable feeling that as small countries they are at a disadvantage in evolving a beneficial bilateral or regional relationship with a big country like India on a footing of complete equality because of the compulsions of its size and importance.

A country like Nepal, for instance, cannot afford to play the ostrich in the long run by pretending that it is not a part of the Indian world in geopolitical terms. But there is no harm in taking a more sympathetic view of its pet theories like a zone of peace, so long as it is not used as an alibi for equating India with China or playing one against the other in the name of equidistance. The mere helplessness of a landlocked country with meagre resources encourages it to develop exaggerated notions of self-importance by overlooking its own heavy dependence and thinking in terms of a balancing role to keep the two big neighbours at bay on either side of the great Himalayan dividing line.

Lurking Fear

The relationship with Sri Lanka is a little more complex because of the problem of Indian origin settlers, but it is soured frequently by differing attitudes towards big power rivalries and ambitions in the region. If Mrs. Gandhi is often irked by Mr. Julius Jayewardene's pro-American inclinations, the Sri Lanka President is no less irritated by the Indian reluctance to let him play a more important role in the non-aligned movement. He has a lurking fear and suspicion that Mrs. Gandhi's personal relationship with Mrs. Bandaranaike tends to colour the Indian attitude towards him.

There is a close parallel between the approaches of Pakistan and Bangladesh towards India, despite the fact that their bilateral problems are different. The impoverished State of Bangladesh with no army worth the name can pose a threat to India as Pakistan does with a near parity in military strength on the western borders, but the leadership in Dhaka is bent on complicating the river waters problem and internationalising it, if possible. The Indian efforts to placate General Ershad have not made Bangladesh less intransigent over this issue, since it is bent on queering the pitch to extract maximum concessions. A more disquieting feature of Bangladesh's attitude has been the attempt by some influential elements in Dhaka to re-establish close fraternal links with the anti-Indian lobbies in Pakistan in an avowed bid to step up their joint pressures.

The case of Bhutan is quite different in the sense that, whatever its special relationship with India based on past treaties and traditions, it is entitled to widen its international contacts without depending entirely on India for guidance, so long as there is no direct conflict of interest. The young King of Bhutan has not attempted to negotiate a border agreement with China or establish direct diplomatic contacts with it, but he is seeking more freedom to extend his relationship with the aid-giving Western powers subject to India's overall advice. He took full advantage of the confusion in Delhi during the Charan Singh interregnum to quietly elevate his trade mission in Dhaka into an embassy without prior-consultations with India which was taken by complete surprise.

There are special features in India's bilateral relationship with each one of these neighbouring countries, but in dealing with them separately there is need for an integrated approach to provide an overall framework of politico-economic cooperation. As a big country India has to adopt a benign attitude by overlooking the vagaries of individual nations and, even at the sacrifice of some of its interests, it has to go out of the way to befriend and make them realise that India is sincerely interested in developing mutually beneficial cooperation with them.

And whatever the idiosyncrasies of Pakistan, it does not make much sense for India to stand in the way of its re-admission to the Commonwealth, after supporting its entry into the non-aligned movement. But India has to be more firm on fundamental issues like the rearming of Pakistan which affects peace and security in the subcontinent. It cannot afford to appease Bangladesh over the river waters issue, nor let Nepal play its China card to the point of compromising the country's security interests, but it can and must learn to live with a bit of India-baiting by some of the neighbouring countries as the price one must necessarily pay for pre-eminence in the region.

CSO: 4600/1465

ANALYST REPORTS PROGRESS IN GLOBAL SUMMIT PLANS

Madras THE HINDU in English 19 Jul 83 p 9

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text] NEW DELHI, July 18--There are only two months now left for the commencement of the next U.N. General Assembly session, but so far none of the big powers has responded positively to the Non-Aligned plea for a gathering of world leaders in New York for consultations on North-South problems.

Almost all the Heads of Government to whom the Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi, has written individually requesting their presence on that occasion, have assured her that they are giving earnest consideration to the suggestion, while no one has yet expressed his or her inability to take part in the discussions for whatever reason.

The latest Indian assessment is that at least some, if not all, would turn up, if only as a matter of courtesy to Mrs. Gandhi who has personally written to them in her capacity as chairperson of the Non-Aligned Movement. The only one who has said yes is the Prime Minister of Sweden, Mr. Olaf Palme, who has publicly welcomed the NAM initiative for these consultations.

The others who have indicated their readiness to participate in the informal exchanges with varying degrees of enthusiasm include the President of France, Mr. Francois Mitterrand, the Prime Minister of Canada, Mr. Pierre Trudeau, and the Chancellor of Austria, Dr. Fred Sinowatz, besides the Heads of some of the smaller West European nations. But there has been no matching response from any of the socialist countries including the Soviet Union.

In no hurry: The U.S. and the Soviet Union, have not yet disclosed whether they are prepared to take part in these consultations. In the absence of a firm indication of the American and Soviet attitudes, the other big powers like Britain, West Germany, China and Japan, are in no hurry to commit themselves one way or the other at this stage.

The original Indian idea of a gathering of world leaders at the U.N. has been watered down considerably to assure all concerned that what was being envisaged was only an informal exchange of views, either individually or in groups depending on their preference, and not a formal get together in some sort of a North-South conference. The U.N. Secretary-General, Mr. Javier Perez de

Cuellar, veered round to the view, shedding his earlier reservations after this elucidation, that Mrs. Gandhi's initiative could serve as a good beginning for commencing the complex process of global negotiations.

It is customary for the U.S. President to address U.N. General Assembly at least once during his four-year term of office. As the President Mr. Reagan has already done it, there is some resistance in Washington to the idea of departing from this established practice and setting new precedent. But even if he makes an exception this time, he may not agree to stay on in New York and engage in these consultations with a representative group of Non-Aligned leaders or even his western allies participating in these exchanges.

Invitation likely: According to some American sources, it is more likely that he might extend an invitation to Mrs. Gandhi, as chairperson of NAM, to a working lunch in Washington, either individually or along with a few other Non-Aligned statesmen. The U.S. President does not generally engage in bilateral or multilateral discussions, it is pointed out, during his rare visits to the U.N.

The Soviet President, Mr. Yuri Andropov, will be similarly inhibited from making his first foreign trip to the U.N. located on the territory of a country with which he has serious differences. It would be rather embarrassing for him to go to New York without advance assurance of a meeting with Mr. Reagan, as it happened when the former Soviet Prime Minister, the late Alexei Kosygin, went to the U.N. in Mr. Lyndon Johnson's time.

The Indian diplomats, who are pursuing the Prime Minister's idea vigorously in various world capitals to ensure a reasonable response to her suggestion, are aware of all the complex factors that might influence the decisions of the two super powers and their associates. But India is in no position to deal with their sensitivities to the point of making a parallel effort to arrange a Soviet-American summit as a corollary to these North-South consultations.

CSO: 4600/1468

NATIONAL LABOR CONGRESS PLANNED FOR SEPTEMBER

Madras THE HINDU in English 19 Jul 83 p 8

[Text] NEW DELHI, July 18--The Central Government has decided to hold another national labour tripartite conference in September, apparently in a bid to resolve the deadlock over the criteria to be fixed for convening the Indian Labour Conference (ILC).

The 18th session of the ILC was held way back in 1971 and it has not been possible to convene another session in the last 12 years mainly because of differences over the norms to be fixed about the representations of different trade union centres.

Certain recommendations were made by the last national labour conference held in September 1982 in regard to the criteria to be adopted for convening the ILC. Since most of those invited to the conference boycotted it, the effectiveness of the recommendations made by it have, to a large extent, been eroded.

Only four trade union centres--INTUC, HMS (Kulkarni), NFITU and NLO--took part in the tripartite conference but there were differences even among them on the criteria for representation at the ILC.

Recognition as central union: The "consensus" at the national tripartite was that a trade union would be deemed a central organisation (and as such can participate in the ILC) if it had a verified membership of at least five lakhs spread over four States and four industries.

The representatives of the NLO and the NFITU, however, were of the view that the membership should be limited to three lakhs spread over four States and four industries and could be increased by a lakh as and when verification was conducted.

The Government has accepted the "consensus" in favour of five lakh members, four industries and four States.

The verification of the strength claimed by the various trade union centres is still under way. The AITUC and the CITU are, however, not participating in the verification as they disapprove of the procedure chosen for the purpose by the Government.

According to the claims made before the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) by the trade union centres which are taking part in the verification, the number of unions affiliated to each centre and its membership as on December 31, 1980, are as follows:

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Number of Unions</u>	<u>Membership Claimed</u>
INTUC	3,457	35,03,775
HMS (Vashist and Kul-karni groups combined)	1,938	29,81,289
BMS	1,723	18,79,191
UTUC(LS)	154	12,38,861
UTUC	618	6,08,052
NFITU	166	5,28,511
NLO	249	4,06,651
TUCC	182	2,71,261

Crosschecking claims: Information collected by the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) from the State Registrars of Trade Unions shows that as on December 31, 1980, the AITUC had 1,365 affiliated unions with a total membership of 10,64,085, and the CITU had 1,740 affiliates with an aggregate membership of 10,34,236.

The actual strength of the various trade union centres will be determined after crosschecking their claims with the rival unions.

CSO: 4600/1468

SENIOR INTELLIGENCE BOARD BEING FORMED

Madras THE HINDU in English 25 Jul 83 p 1

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text] NEW DELHI, July 24--The Government is taking a series of steps to revamp the higher intelligence organisation to provide for closer coordination of the activities of various agencies and better evaluation of the sensitive information gathered from different sources.

An apex body called the Senior Intelligence Board (SIB) is being formed under the chairmanship of Mr. R. N. Kao, Security Adviser in the Cabinet Secretariat, with the two chairmen of the newly bifurcated wings of the Joint Intelligence Committee (JIC) and the two Directors of the Intelligence Bureau (IB) and the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) as members.

The JIC itself has been split and is being reorganised into two separate units dealing with internal and external intelligence. The Special Secretary in the Home Ministry, Mr. P. P. Nayyar, who has been dealing with the security aspects of the Assam and Punjab situations, has been promoted to the rank of a full Secretary and made chairman of the JIC (internal), while the Additional Director of the RAW, Mr. S. M. Warty, will head the other wing of the JIC responsible for external intelligence with a similar rank as Secretary to the Government.

The Director of the IB, Mr. R. K. Kapur, and the Director of the RAW, Mr. G. C. Saxena, who also have the status of Secretaries, will continue to be the executive heads of the two parallel intelligence organisations employing nearly 20,000 men. They will be directly answerable to the Government for the day-to-day conduct of both internal and external intelligence operations.

As an apex body, the SIB will advise the Cabinet Committee on National Security, which is yet to be formed, on all matters relating to the country's internal and external security from various angles. It will function in close concert with another high-power committee called the Core Group, consisting of the Cabinet Secretary, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister and the Secretaries of External Affairs, Home and Defence, which has been coordinating the political and security aspects.

At one stage, the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, was toying with the idea of having a national security council on the American model, if a suitable institutional framework could be evolved for meshing it into the country's Cabinet form of Government. The idea was given up after it was found to be impracticable under Indian conditions, but it was revived from time to time on the basis of the conflicting advice she has been receiving from her confidants on the subject.

The result is that there is still no final decision about the formation of even the proposed Cabinet Committee on National Security, with the result that the omnibus Political Affairs Committee of the Cabinet is obliged to deal with all matters relating to internal politics, foreign policy, defence and intelligence. This has inevitably led to duplication of committees and overlapping of authority at the lower levels without proper coordination.

At one time, the JIC functioned as a small sub-committee of the joint chiefs of staff committee for processing civil intelligence for military purposes. It had no full-time Chairman or Secretary until it was elevated to the level of a separate unit in the Cabinet Secretariat after the 1962 and 1965 wars with China and Pakistan. It was initially headed by a Joint Secretary and then by an Additional Secretary, but now two full Secretaries will be in charge of its internal and external wings under the latest reorganisation of the higher intelligence organisation.

Similarly, the IB, which looked after both internal and external intelligence, was split into two separate establishments after the 1962 debacle. But the IB is still responsible for counter-intelligence for dealing with foreign espionage and other subversive activities, in addition to its ever expanding responsibilities for political intelligence and security duties including protection of the top leaders of the Government.

Govt. Within Govt.

As a result of all these changes, the Cabinet Secretariat is emerging as a Government within the Government, a hub of all coordination and higher direction of intelligence activities both in the internal and external spheres. There will now be four officers in the rank of Secretaries assigned to the Cabinet Secretariat dealing exclusively with intelligence matters, besides the Cabinet Secretary and Secretary (Coordination).

The main casualty in this proliferation has been military intelligence which has no direct responsibility for collection of any security information relevant to national defence. The Army, Navy and Air Force units have to confine themselves to analysis, assessment and application of the information supplied by the civil agencies which also keep a vigilant eye on the discipline of the three Services.

CSO: 4600/1483

DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE APPOINTED TO NEW POST

Madras THE HINDU in English 17 Jul 83 p 1

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text] NEW DELHI, July 16--The present Director of the Intelligence Bureau, Mr. T. . Rajeshwar, who has served with distinction for the last three years in this highly sensitive post in the most difficult circumstances, is being appointed Lt. Governor of Arunachal Pradesh in place of Mr. H. S. Dubey, IAS, who is getting another assigment.

He will be succeeded by Mr. R. K. Kapur, who as Additional Director ranks as the second senior-most officer having worked for the last 23 years in various capacities in the Intelligence establishment.

Mr. Rajeshwar, who belongs to the 1949 batch of IPS, is due to retire in August, 1984, but in his new appointment he will have a three-year tenure. After his earlier years in undivided Madras State, he opted for Andhra Pradesh and later on moved over to the Centre.

Mr. R. K. Kapur, who is a year junior to Mr. Rajeshwar in the IPS, belongs to the U.P. cadre and is due to retire in January, 1986, which leaves him with another two and half years of service. He has been chosen as Mr. Rajeshwar's successor not only due to his seniority but also because of his vast experience and specialisation in intelligence.

It is not clear why the Government has chosen to make this change at this juncture. The Intelligence community riven as it is by internal dissensions, has been perplexed by the decision.

The change in the stewardship of the Intelligence Bureau, which deals with internal intelligence and counter-intelligence, has come in the wake of the appointment of Mr. G. C. Saxena as Director of the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) of the Cabinet Secretariat handling external intelligence, following the retirement of Mr. N. F Santook from this key assignment.

Dissatisfaction: The two wings of the Indian Intelligence establishment, with a combined staff of over 20,000, have been faced with serious unrest over their promotion policies and working conditions. The Government has been

waiting for a suitable opportunity to make some far-reaching changes in the two branches to restore the old standards of discipline.

In a country like India that is in constant flux, it is a thankless task for anybody to head the intelligence establishment. It is impossible to comply with the demands of the political leadership for analysis and assessment of events ranging from violent agitations and acts of sabotage to internal and external subversion, not to speak of inter-party and intra-party squabbles.

But the big mistake that is often made by the Intelligence community is in blurring the dividing line between professionalism and personal loyalty in subserving the interests of those in power at any point of time. The result is the dissent gets misrepresented as disloyalty and many reputations get tarnished through false or motivated reports.

And there are moments when the top functionaries of the Intelligence establishment have to pay a heavy price when they are unable to live up to the expectations of their political masters and forfeit their confidence. This has happened repeatedly since Independence with the result that the morale of the Intelligence establishment has suffered grievously in the bargain.

CSO: 4600/1465

PUNJAB TOPS LIST FOR OPPOSITION ACTION

Madras THE HINDU in English 25 Jul 83 p 9

[Text] NEW DELHI, July 24--Opposition leaders today agreed upon floor coordination in the monsoon session of Parliament, beginning tomorrow, and identified issues for attacks on the Government. The Punjab crisis topped the list.

The joint strategy, though limited in scope as in the past, it was hoped would be more effective this time. The leaders found that the problems which united them outnumbered the divisive subjects.

Meeting at the house of the former Prime Minister, Mr. Charan Singh, they decided to give priority to Punjab. Though differing in their assessment of the Akali Dal and the situation created by its demands, they had no difficulty in agreeing that the Centre had bungled.

It was, therefore, decided to censure the Government through an adjournment motion.

In the brief discussion, they took exception to the Prime Minister's remarks, blaming the Opposition for adopting double standards. Mrs. Gandhi's charge that the Opposition had been hesitant in condemning acts of violence, was uncalled for and baseless as they had been unequivocal in their denunciation of extremists.

That the Government and the Opposition differed sharply on the procedural aspect of a discussion on Punjab was clear from informal exchanges at a lunch, hosted by the Lok Sabha Speaker, Mr. Balram Jhakar, to party leaders. The Opposition representatives mentioned their decision to move an adjournment motion, but the Parliamentary Affairs Minister, Mr. Buta Singh said the Union Home Minister, Mr. P. C. Sethi, planned to make a statement and as a special case, this could be followed up by a discussion. The Opposition, however, stuck to its idea.

Protest: The Opposition representatives protested against the new security arrangement in Parliament house but succeeded in getting an assurance that MPs would not be covered by it.

The Lok Sabha may adjourn tomorrow after paying tribute to the former Speaker, Mr. Hukum Singh, who died recently.

At the strategy meeting, the Opposition leaders were unanimous in expression concern over the partisan use of AIR and Doordarshan by the Government, as evidenced by the Andhra Pradesh episode. (The A.P. Chief Minister, Mr. N. T. Rama Rao was refused permission to broadcast a second appeal to the striking Government employees in this State). Apart from finding fault with the authorities for the way Mr. Rama Rao, was treated and denied the opportunity to broadcast, they gave several instances of how the official media had been used to promote the dynamist cult.

For the first time, a representative of Telugu Desam--Mr. P. Upendra, party General Secretary--attended the session-even meeting. He briefed the Opposition representatives on the situation created by the NGOs' strike in Andhra Pradesh.

The other issues to be raised were price rise and the Mandal Commission report on Backward Classes. There was general agreement with the exposition of the Janavdi leader, Mr. Chandrajit Yadav, that the decisions on the Commission's report had been unduly delayed.

Stir plan: Later, Mr. Yadav, addressing a press conference, outlined the plan of agitation with a view to mounting popular pressure in favour of the report. Speaking on behalf of the National Union of backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and Minorities, he said they would start a symbolic satyagraha and court arrest in Delhi from August 9. If there was no response from the Government, mass satyagraha would be launched at the district level from October 2. Leaders of various Opposition parties, who had been approached by the union, had assured full support to the campaign.

The Opposition meeting, however, disagreed on whether to raise in Parliament the issue of Gen. Sinha's supersession. The left parties disagreed with the non-communist representatives who had already announced their plans, on the ground that they had to be cautious in matters concerning the armed forces.

The meeting was attended by representatives of most Opposition parties of the left and right. The participants were: Mr. Jagjivan Ram (Congress-J), Mr. A. B. Vajpayee (BJP), Mr. H. N. Bahuguna and Mr. Harikesh Bahadur Singh (DSP), Mr. Samar Mukherjee (CPI-M), Mr. Indrajit Gupta and Mr. Indradip Singh (CPI), Mr. K. P. Unnikrishnan (Congress-S), Mr. Madhu Dandavate (Janata), Mr. Tridib Chowdhury (RSP), Mr. Chandrajit Yadav (Janawadi) and Mr. S. N. Reddy (Telugu Desam).

CSO: 4600/1483

CPI SUSPENDS MEMBER FOR CRITICISM OF LEFT

Details of Resolution

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 21 Jul 83 pp 1, 7

[Text]

The CPI Central Executive Committee has suspended eminent Supreme Court advocate R K Garg from the primary membership of the party for six months for his article in Link of March this year.

Party General Secretary C Rajeswara Rao released the resolution suspending Mr Garg at a press conference on Wednesday.

The resolution said 'Having considered the replies given to the letters for explanation addressed to Comrade R K Garg, and after hearing him in person, the CEC of the CPI resolves to suspend Comrade Garg from the primary membership of the party for a period of six months, for openly attacking and giving expression to views contravening the party line in article, statement or other forms, and for

persistent violation of party discipline and the forms of party functioning despite many efforts by the party leadership to correct him.'

'The CEC is affording an opportunity to Comrade Garg to correct his ways, to loyally carry out the party line and to act as a disciplined member of the party,' the resolution concluded.

In reply to a question, Mr Rao said that there was complete democracy within the party forums and a member was free to air his views and differences inside those forums.

But once the party policies were decided, the member had to follow them, he emphasised.

Mr R K Garg, a former CPI member of the UP Assembly, won repute as a leading Supreme Court lawyer by the relentless and successful legal battles he

has waged for more than two decades in defence of the rights of the working class and Communist leaders. He fought against the detention of almost all leading Communist leaders who were put behind bars in 1962.

Among the notable achievement was the victory Mr Garg secured for the LIC workers in their bonus case. He also fought for Post and Telegraph workers, who were detained during their strike.

Mr Garg, a leading trade unionist, is president of Bharat Heavy Electrical workers union and heads the IDPL karmachari sangh. He is also president of the General Insurance all India employees association. Mr Garg is vice-president of UP trade union congress.

Having joined the Communist Party of India in 1949, Mr R K Garg was elected member of the State Committee of the CPI, and later became a permanent invitee of this body.

A powerful orator, Mr R K Garg has travelled widely and has participated in numerous anti imperialist international Congresses.

Offending Article

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 21 Jul 83 pp 2, 7

[Article by R K Garg]

[Text] THEIR responses to the challenges of our times are proving inadequate to catch the imagination of the people as a whole, at a time when India, which ranks tenth in the world in terms of its industrial potential and a great Asian power fighting for peace and progress in her own right, is facing gravest dangers to her freedom, unity and integrity.

The social and economic problems remain unresolved and equal opportunities to ensure a life with dignity to our hungry millions are still denied. The Left forces in the country are unable to launch broadbased mass movements and thus to lead the nation towards revolution. The Congress-I on the other hand has failed to maintain the thurst of social and economic transformation. The promises of the democratic reforms to create an egalitarian order still remain unfulfilled which is being exploited by the forces of reaction within and without the country according to a well conceived blueprint for the balkanization of India.

The achievements of India are not insignificant. Our enemies argue that India is no longer a developing country and therefore we should not be denied our share in the growth. Our friends are willing to share with us new responsibilities to ensure collective self-reliance so that we share the fruits of our growth with other freedom and peace-loving countries on a non-exploitative basis. Our own freedom casts a heavy responsibility on us to consolidate the powerful thrust of the non-aligned movement against unequal relations between nations.

For this we need a powerful unity of all sections of our people welded together with patriotism and progressive national ideals to demonstrate the invincibility of our commitments to freedom and peace.

It is unfortunate that since 1974, irrespective of the Governments that ruled, the vested interests assumed control of all political decisions in the agrarian as well as industrial sector and have sought to reverse accepted national policies in the name of pragmatism and non-ism.

The rapid growth of monopolies including the introduction of transnationals dislodging the public sector from commanding heights and the growing dependence on World Bank and IMF have resulted into rampant corruption at all levels. A visible decay of values in public life has accentuated the erosion of national cohesiveness.

Emergency has also proved to be a nightmare. The democratic rights of the people were treated with contempt by the fascist forces that claimed to be the saviours of democracy, against the alleged excesses committed by the ruling party. The unabashed champions of monopolies and the enemies of industrialisation joined hands along with Maulana Abdul Bukhari and the Lok Dal, the Janata, the BJP and the RSS together and formed a combined force.

The Left forces in the country perhaps realised immediately after the ouster of the Congress-I by the Janata Party that all nationally accepted policies would be sought to be reversed. As a result the movement of non-alignment lost its thrust and turned into a fashionable trend. Premier Public Sector undertakings were no longer modern temples of India. The question of land reforms became a forgotten chapter. Backward cases were continually suppressed by the forward ones. Atrocities on Harijans were the order of the day.

Janata was dislodged from power both at the Centre and in the States. The formations, now collapsing, were continuing then the policy of pragmatism to consolidate their power. The people were disappointed at the failure of the Government to act. The policies that were formulated in the Gandhi Nehru political framework and identified in the minds of Congress-I masses with the name of Indira Gandhi, were threatened by various sections.

The facile conclusions drawn by the revolutionaries in a hurry were that capitalist path has come to a dead end and landed us in a crisis. No bourgeois party can meet the bill. In these circumstances, it was realized that the left and democratic unity is the only alternative to the present capitalist crisis. And it is interesting to note that the Left argued against the return of Indira Gandhi to power and for her ouster after she had returned. Even the known weaknesses and physical limitations of the left were not taken note of. Forgotten were the Leninist principles of self-critical analysis, so vital necessary at every turn of history.

Indira Gandhi is acclaimed today by the United left for her foreign policy which is broadly progressive despite vacillations but it is not acknowledged that India's independent capitalist growth as a great Asian Power itself is the reason for the sustained onslaught by US imperialists and to meet their interest, attempts are made to secure the balkanization of India and ouster of Indira Gandhi from power. The emergence of greater understanding and cooperation between the two Communist parties in the country and its significance cannot be underestimated but so far they have failed to identify themselves as acceptable national allies. They have been unable to evolve an acceptable national programme of social and economic transformation and inspire confidence in the people that the left is patriotic enough and the future of the nation is safe in its hands. Today the left unity is the need of time since a rightist national alternative, though not yet articulate is taking shape in the hearts of people, who feel alienated from politics. They are the victims of revivalism, Hindu-Muslim and Sikh obscurantism and that of casteism.

The humiliation of the left caused by the collapse of the alternative it offered, has left it high and dry. If it wants now to cover up its isolation

from the people, logic compels it to seek the company of reactionary forces under false labels, but it is against the left conscience. Both the Communist parties have rejected the BJP as a fascist, pro-imperialist communal force. They have yet to realize that Charan Singh is a national ally of the BJP and the politics of the rich peasantry suits the imperialist forces seeking to destroy independent industrial development and cannot find acceptance by the landless and the poor in the villages.

The Congress-I has no option, but to liquidate the structures built in 1980 under the impact of no politics, if it has to survive. But it will be a mistake to believe that the Congress-I has no future. The party under the leadership of Indira Gandhi has restored India to her rightful eminence in the international forums. The image of the Congress is that it stands for unity and integrity of India and will defend secularism. However, it cannot be denied that it has yet to give evidence of its deeper commitments to democracy and democratic rights of the people, specially of the working class. It has yet to revive its faith in the spirit of Swadeshi and self-reliance so that people do not believe that it is surrendering the nation's freedom and sovereignty to the World Bank and IMF.

It is imperative in the present circumstances that the Left should take note of the fact that millions of Indians still look to the Congress-I as the party of freedom, unity and integrity and still caring for the poor. The rich and the super-rich have not yet shifted their allegiance from it. It has to be appreciated that the defeat of the Congress-I in Andhra and Karnataka had made people shudder to think who will keep India united if Indira Gandhi collapses without an alternative. Those who wish to keep Congress-I alive argue that the Congress-I still has resilience to survive only if it attends to:

- (a) Re-examine its economic policies to revert to uncompromising self-reliance and not increasing dependence on aid and foreign policy.
- (b) If it gives a larger role to the Public Sector to enable it to play an anti-imperialist and anti monopoly role and for this it restores its communication with the workers committed to the ideology of the Public Sector.
- (c) If it regulates the Private Sector to work within the frame work of planned development for growth with social justice.
- (d) If it realises that the rich peasantry has gone against it and its political ambitions can be controlled only if the State policies and their implementations are framed to win over the poor and the middle farmer and the landless poor and all weaker sections who are feeling neglected and used as easy victims of divisive forces. The concessions to the Harijans must not be allowed to be used for making the backward classes hostile by discriminating against them. The common interests must bring the toiling masses together and the case for nationalism must be restated powerfully.
- (e) The youth are involved in the patriotic efforts to build up the strength of the nation and to defeat the challenges to its freedom and unity. They must be increasingly involved more and more socially, economically and

culturally. Future of India belongs to them and they must be enabled to think and plan it together with clearer perception of dangers and challenges they are to face in future.

(f) Corruption at all levels should be fought in right earnest with an inflexible commitment of the Prime Minister.

(g) All policies are evolved to strengthen self-reliance in economy and in Defense.

However the Left is not yet convinced that Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru gave India a policy framework which is relevant even today. The left has convinced itself that Indira Gandhi has no future and the left must pursue an independent political line. They do not believe that India's foreign policy is only India's national policy towards foreign countries and therefore it is intended to protect India's national interests as seen by the ruling party.

The Left must therefore find the missing dialectical link between the domestic national policy and the Indian foreign policy to look more coherent and credible. Limitations in the understanding of the Left can be traced back to the sharp differences between Lenin and M N Roy. To the extent Left had the courage to follow Lenin it has served the people and the working class and established its patriotic credentials to intervene effectively in changing the course of Indian History. To the extent it accepted consciously or unconsciously the basic postulates of M N Roy, it has betrayed Lenin and became victim of petty bourgeois subjectivism. The climax was seen in 1948, and the consequences of sectarianism are known to us.

For the Left, it must be assumed that there is no dearth of revolutionary fervor or revolutionary convictions. The leaders and followers of the Left have never said no to shoulder any responsibility. Their misfortunes if any can therefore only be the limitations of their understanding and experience. India is too complex a reality to be put in oversimplified categories.

CSO: 4600/1475

CPI LEADER TELLS PRESS OF CENTRAL EXECUTIVE MEETING

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 21 Jul 83 pp 1, 7

[Text]

The Communist Party of India has urged the Prime Minister 'to give up her negative attitude' on the Punjab problem and 'to take steps for expeditious solution of the remaining issues with the help of all parties who are for an amicable solution of the problem.'

Briefing the press on the deliberations of the four-day meeting of the party's Central Executive Committee, which ended on Tuesday, party general secretary C Rajeswara Rao said that if the Prime Minister wanted she could have solved the Punjab problem immediately.

Claiming that the opposition parties had made a very modest contribution to solve the problem at their Delhi conclave, Mr Rao regretted that instead of adopting a positive attitude towards that she had been attacking them.

At the same time, Mrs Gandhi continued to pursue the policy of drift which was leading to further deterioration of the situation, he said.

Mr Rao said the party also regretted the provocative speeches by some Akali leaders, but claimed that a letter written on behalf of the opposition parties recently by Mr H N Bahuguna to Akali Dal chief Harchand Singh Longowal had prompted its leadership to postpone its morcha till

15 August and to conduct a mass movement for Hindu-Sikh unity

Mr Rao said that Mr Bahuguna had also written to Mrs Gandhi on behalf of the opposition parties offering their cooperation to solve the Punjab issue but 'till today there has been no answer'.²

Regarding the extremist violence and Mrs Gandhi's criticism of the Opposition in the matter, Mr Rao said no opposition party wanted to divide the country. "Has any opposition party asked the Government not to deal firmly with the extremists" he asked.

Mr Rao reiterated that the two meetings of the opposition parties were "not intended for evolving any national alternative to the Congress-I" but to discuss the burning problems and help find a solution.

Mr Rao also denounced reports that he had met Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee recently to discuss electoral arrangements with the Congress-I.

Regarding the open polemics going on between the CPI and CPI-M after the latter restored its relations with the Communist Party of China, Mr Rao said that it would not affect the united action between the two parties.

Referring to reports on the advise by some Soviet leaders to back Mrs Gandhi, Mr Rajeswara Rao said the Soviet Union did not interfere in the internal affairs of the party.

Mr Rao said the CEC also discussed the new electoral strategy which Mrs Gandhi was trying to evolve after her defeat in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka 'in order to perpetuate her power'.

'This was very much in evidence in the recent Jammu and Kashmir elections where she used every weapon to oust the National Conference from power', he added.

On Jammu and Kashmir elections, Mr Rao discounted charges of rigging and said both sides used communalism and regionalism. The elected Government should be allowed to continue there, he added.

On Assam it urged the Government to 'reactivate the process of negotiations' with the Assam agitation leaders to solve the issues relating to foreigners, who entered into the State between 1961 and 1971.

CSO: 4600/1475

PTI CORRESPONDENT REVIEWS TIES WITH VIETNAM

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 21 Jul 83 p 3

[Text] HANOI, July 20 (PTI)--Indo-Vietnamese economic cooperation, which began on a modest scale in 1977-78, now extends to a wide-ranging area, covering not only agriculture but also most sophisticated items like locomotives and railway coaches.

Indias assistance over the past five years to Vietnam has already reached a total of about Rs 160 crore, nearly half of which accounting for wheat and wheat flour.

Under the latest credit agreement in 1982, India will supply to Vietnam 15 metre gauge diesel locomotives from the Varanasi manufacturing unit.

PTI's Beijing-based correspondent, who visited Vietnam recently, heard expressions of warm appreciation from Vietnamese officials for Indian assistance to reconstruct the war-ravaged economy, besides rendering credit facilities to develop its economy.

A top Vietnamese party official, Mr Hoang Tun, in-charge of the propaganda department of the Communist Party central committee, told PTI that "we are getting all the economic assistance we have sought from India. We ask for too much (from India)."

Another top hydro-electric official of Vietnam's third major power project in Hoa Binh province, north-west of Hanoi, also reacted in a similar vein when the PTI correspondent asked if Vietnam would approach India to prepare the blueprint of a future hydel power project to meet acute power shortage. "I would like a hydel project to be taken up by India. It is my personal wish."

While in 1982, India had signed a new line of credit for Rs 10 crore, a fresh one for another Rs 10 crore would be signed during this year.

The Rs 20 crore worth of credit for 1982 and 1983 would take care of 15 diesel locomotives, besides the supply of spare parts, new machinery and reconditioning, some of the old equipment at the Nam Dinh textile plant, one of the largest in Vietnam.

India has also supplied to Vietnam some special spare parts for keeping some of their old steam locomotives in running condition. Supplies of these spares were stopped by China in the wake of 1979 border war.

In 1977-78, India supplied to Vietnam 70,000 tonnes of wheat flour and three lakh tonnes of wheat worth Rs 50 crore. Another 50,000 tonnes of rice worth Rs 13 crore were supplied in 1980.

All these formed part of a loan agreement, and this is to be reimbursed in kind to India. Part of the loan is given as credits either on a Government to Government basis for import of engineering goods or in part by the Industrial Bank of India (IDBI) as credit.

Against these line of credits, India has so far exported to Vietnam about 1300 railway wagons, 1000 of which being freight-carrying wagons and the rest coal hoppers.

Besides, about 1,000 bogies complete with brake, spring, suspension shock absorbers but without the body have been supplied. Each unit fitted with all these equipment makes a comparatively high technology item.

Indian Railways have sent to Vietnam 50 passenger coaches. Every morning a passenger train leaves Hanoi for Ho Chi Minh City (formerly known as Saigon) and at least four of the coaches out of a total seven are India-made.

In the field of agriculture, India has set up two research centres in Vietnam. One of them is a buffalo breeding centre in the southern part of the country and the other a rice research centre.

To make best use of these research centres, India has sent some experts. Three such experts are attached to the buffalo breeding centre and an equal number to the rice research centre.

Along with the experts, some equipment to run these centres have also been supplied by India. While the Soviet Union tops the list of donor countries for the reconstruction of Vietnam, India ranks second among the non-socialist countries next to Sweden. Vietnam is a member of Comecon since June 1978.

CSO: 4600/1475

WEST BENGAL IRRIGATION MINISTER REGRETS TISTA ACCORD

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 22 Jul 83 pp 1, 14

[Text] THE ad hoc formula finalized by the Joint River Commission at Dhaka for sharing of Teesta waters between India and Bangladesh during dry season was "unfortunate and disappointing", Mr Nani Bhattacharya, West Bengal's Irrigation Minister, told reporters in Calcutta on Thursday. The agreement had been reached at the cost of West Bengal though Mr Ram Niwas Mirdha, Union Minister of State for Irrigation, had earlier promised that no agreement would be made without considering the needs of the State.

This was West Bengal Government's initial reaction to the ad hoc agreement and the issue was likely to be discussed in the State Cabinet on July 26 and the official reaction of the State Government would be intimated to Delhi after that Mr Bhattacharya, however, feared that since the agreement had been signed the State Government could do little about it, except expressing disappointment. He pointed out that there was scope for scientific study of the system of sharing of unallocated water and this must be done intensively.

Mr Bhattacharya said that the formula which provided for only 39% of Teesta waters during the dry season for India and allow Bangladesh to draw 36% water would deprive West Bengal of its legitimate needs. It was not sure how much West Bengal would get of the 25% water which was unallocated. The ad hoc formula was valid till 1985.

Mr Bhattacharya pointed out that West Bengal was planged by food deficit and Teesta was its only dependable and sizeable source of water in north Bengal for production of rabi and aus. A major irrigation project on the Teesta was being constructed but the project would lose much of its relevance because of the ad hoc formula arrived at. For the planned irrigation potential of the Teesta Barrage project would have to be drastically curtailed. Its command area would go down almost to 40% of what was originally planned, from 1.02 million acres to only 400,000.

The Minister said that the West Bengal Government had been telling the Union Government for some time that the major share of the Teesta water during the dry season should go to West Bengal and only a token share should be offered to Bangladesh. In its view, West Bengal should get 80% of the water of the

river during the dry season and only a token of 20% should be offered to Bangladesh. West Bengal Government's representative in the meeting of the Joint River Commission had repeatedly pressed this demand, but his view was ignored.

Mr Bhattacharya said the West Bengal Assembly had adopted a unanimous resolution in September last year demanding that West Bengal should get the major share of Teesta water. An all-party delegation of the State Assembly had gone to Delhi in October and submitted a memorandum to the Union Government, re-iterating the State's demand, Mr Jyoti Basu had also written a number of times to Mrs Gandhi, the Union Irrigation Minister and the Union Minister for External Affairs.

Mr Bhattacharya said Bangladesh did not need as much water from Teesta as West Bengal. There were many water sources in Ranpur, Bogra and Dinajpur, the northern part of Bangladesh. Apart from the Brahmaputra, there were numerous small rivers and the ground water stores were substantial.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh High Commissioner to India, Air Vice Marshall A. K. Khondakar, told reporters at Calcutta Airport on Thursday that final solution to the problems relating to the sharing of Ganga waters between India and Bangladesh might not be reached at the forthcoming meeting of the Joint River Commission in Delhi in October. But some progress might be achieved. The High Commissioner who had gone to Dhaka to participate in the JPC meeting returned to Calcutta on way to Delhi.

CSO: 4600/1476

ANALYST GIVES DETAILS OF SECRETARIAT CHANGES

Madras THE HINDU in English 23 Jul 83 p 9

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text] NEW DELHI, July 22--The Secretary for Industrial Development, Mr. S. M. Ghosh, has been appointed Defence Secretary in place of Mr. P. K. Kaul who recently took over as Finance Secretary following Mr. M. Narasimhan's resignation.

The Steel Secretary, Mr. A. S. Sitt, and the Secretary for Petroleum, Mr. Lovraj Kumar, have changed places in the course of a series of other changes in the Central Secretariat.

The former Secretary for Revenue in the Ministry of Finance, Mr. V. B. Eswaran, has been appointed Secretary of the Energy Board in place of Mr. G. V. Ramakrishna, who goes back to Andhra Pradesh as Chief Secretary to the State Government.

The present Secretary for Works and Housing, Mr. M. K. Mukharji, will be an officer on special duty, with his present rank as a Secretary, looking after national trust projects like famous buildings and art treasures that are not under the charge of the Archaeological Department.

He will be succeeded as Secretary for Works and Housing by Mr. Prakash Narayan of the Indian Railway Service who is now an adviser to the Planning Commission.

The Government has also given the rank of a Secretary to Mr. B. R. Dubashi, who is now Director of the Indian Institute of Public Administration. The other two who have been upgraded to the rank of Special Secretaries are the Chief Economic Adviser to the Government in the Ministry of Finance, Dr. Bimal Jalan, and the Additional Secretary in charge of Economic Affairs in the Prime Minister's office, Dr. A. K. Sen Gupta, who will continue in their present posts.

The post of Secretary for Industrial Development in the Ministry of Industry that has fallen vacant following the appointment of the present incumbent, Mr. S. M. Ghosh, as Defence Secretary has not been filled in the course of the

present chain of transfers and promotions. But as it cannot be left vacant for too long, the Government is looking around for a senior officer with the necessary drive and experience to fill it.

There will be other changes shortly in the higher bureaucracy following the transfer of some more senior officers from their present posts to more challenging assignments.

Investment Centre chief: Mr. M. Narasimham, former Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs has been appointed Chairman of the India Investment Centre, New Delhi, reports PTI.

CSO: 4600/1478

LACK OF SUCCESS IN TRADE WITH EEC DEPLORED

Madras THE HINDU in English 24 Jul 83 p 6

[Article by Batuk Gathani]

[Text] Indian officials in West European capitals endlessly talk about dismal prospects and markets. In specific terms, EEC's imports from India amount to less than half per cent of the total. There is the monotonous tendency in India to balem tariffs and other barriers in the EEC for this state of af-fairs. It is not realised by Indian officials and business community that tariff preferences in themselves are not enough; exports, especially of new items, must be promoted, often vigorously. It would be interesting, even from academic viewpoint to find out how exactly many India big business houses or export companies have made any serious sales promotion efforts in the EEC markets.

Indian businessmen one talks to fondly reel off statistics, which on close scrutiny are more make-believe than real. It is understood that special export promotion tours undertaken by company directors are mere pleasure trips and in fact, efforts to establish business contacts are more pathetic.

Better Marketing Techniques Will Help

Europeans bitterly complain that Indian businessmen are not well prepared with facts and figures. They gree that India's consumer goods could be easily mar-keted in EEC countries with better presentation and marketing back-up. But such products are handled by wrong companies in India from European viewpoint.

One European senior executive who participated in a seminar held in three Eur-opean cities between November 2 and 9, 1982 and also followed the EEC/India Industrial Technology and Investment Conference, which was timed to meet in New Delhi during All-India Engineering Fair in January, 1983, told your Corre-spondent that he feels bitterly disillusioned. He agrees that there was some good discussions, but regrets that the end result in terms of business con-cluded was zero. He has been a keen Indian observer for about ten years and at one time seriously believed that India would provide a solid base for sur-plus European venture capital. Today he feels differently.

Despite the fact that India's share of EEC trade is mere .30 per cent, the European Community absorbs about 30 per cent of Indian exports and during last

one decade over 700 joint ventures have been approved. The European Community is today the World's largest trading block and represents 24 per cent of world's imports as compared with 15 per cent of the United States. If intra-community trade were to be included, then EEC would account for nearly 40 per cent of the world trade.

Leading European and business officials feel that Indian business community, without relying on the Government or its diplomatic missions which obviously are in a pathetic state barring some exceptions, should take initiative on its own to improve individual trade relations with the EEC markets. They should become more professional and less academic, and should improve the quality of products and presentation in the way of better display and packaging. This should be followed by aggressive and professional marketing techniques with aid of qualified export personnel. And only after striving with determination and self-confidence Indian companies will be able to find a firm footing for their products. All this may sound utopian but European analysts agree that it is not impossible.

CSO: 4600/1480

ANALYST DISCUSSES ISSUES OF NEW PARLIAMENT SESSION

Madras THE HINDU in English 24 Jul 83 p 2

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text] THE monsoon session of Parliament will start tomorrow on a stormy note with the Opposition parties out to embarrass the Government over a number of sensitive issues, ranging from Akali agitation, Kashmir elections and appointment of the Army Chief to Seymour Hersh's allegations, AIR vs NTR controversy and non-resident investment. The Government has been preparing hard to face these onslaughts with the usual counterattacks on Opposition parties followed by dark hints of diabolical foreign conspiracies to destabilise the country, along with appeals for unity and dedication to sustain the integrity of the nation.

This ding-dong drama, which is more in the nature of a prologue to every session, will go on for a few days until both sides run out of steam and the public becomes tired of it. The two Houses will then settle down to routine legislative work to go through the assigned workload for the one-month session. There will be several controversial bills including constitutional amendments which are bound to lead to bitter wrangles, but the Government will manage to get them passed without much difficulty because the built-in checks and balances in the functioning of the country's parliamentary system have ceased to operate for all practical purposes.

If the so-called brute majority of the ruling party comes in the way of fuller debates for asserting the superiority of informed opinion, the pathetic inability of the fragmented Opposition to make a better contribution to the discussions has reduced the legislative role of Parliament to a mere ritual by letting the Government have its way without any serious challenge to those in authority to justify their policies and defend their actions.

The result is a constant drift between the Government and the Opposition with no real desire at all on either side for a bipartisan approach to issues of national importance transcending narrow party interests. The Government merely goes through the motions of occasionally consulting the Opposition leaders without making a serious effort to convince them about the validity of its decisions, while the Opposition in turn rarely comes forward to extend its cooperation to the Government even in matters of national importance.

The absence of a proper working relationship between the Government and the Opposition inhibits the Prime Minister from sharing her thoughts with leaders of other parties on sensitive issues with the necessary confidence. The Government has, no doubt, consulted the Opposition from time to time on problems like Assam and Akali agitations, but seldom sought its help in solving them.

If it is totally indefensible on the part of the Government to accuse the Opposition of encouraging such agitations, it is no less deplorable that the Opposition should be indulging in sinister propaganda that the ruling party had a vested interest in letting the Akalis remain on the warpath in the Punjab to polarise and rally the Hindus behind it. The exigencies of electoral politics keep compelling the two sides to cast themselves more and more in adversary roles with a cynical disdain for the larger national interests.

In a more healthy political atmosphere, the Prime Minister would have told the Opposition leaders privately the considerations that prevailed in the choice of the new Army Chief to forestall any unsavoury controversy over it. Though the Government had exercised its discretion with the best of intentions, it has unwittingly given the Opposition an opportunity to attribute motives and question the decision by being unduly secretive about it.

There can be little doubt that on balance the choice of Gen. Vaidya was correct and there was no impropriety involved in Gen. Sinha's supersession. The point is that the decision could have been taken with greater grace and the factors that weighed in making the choice between two eminently qualified and well-deserving claimants conveyed to all concerned to pre-empt ill-informed criticism.

Affront to Nation

It is the absence of such a confidence-sharing convention that has prompted some of the Opposition leaders to make a political issue of what is otherwise a fair decision to embarrass the Government.

Similarly, the Government has not crowned itself with glory by adopting coyly a posture of studied silence over the canard that Mr. Morarji Desai was a CIA mole in the Indian Cabinet. In all honesty the Government should have come forward with a strong denial of this malicious accusation since the slur that was being cast on the personal integrity of a former Prime Minister was not merely an attempt to tarnish the reputation of an individual but an affront to the whole nation.

The Government should have delved deeper into this sordid episode to see to what wicked lengths foreign intelligence outfits can go in character assassination to distort history to justify their actions. The Government will cut a sorry figure if it is going to adhere to its equivocal stance when the issue comes up in Parliament maintaining that it was for Mr. Desai to clear his name by proving his innocence.

Fabrication

It is an open secret that the Indian intelligence agencies have made the most exhaustive inquiries over the years to pin-point whether there was, indeed, a CIA mole in the Cabinet during the Bangladesh crisis feeding the U.S. with inside information about India's military plans and political intentions. The Government came to the conclusion, on the basis of these inquiries, that it was a mischievous fabrication by some high ups in the Nixon-Kissinger establishment to justify the U.S. tilt with the astounding charge that India was all set to dismember West Pakistan. The then Indian Ambassador in Washington, Mr. L. K. Jha, told the Government at that time that this was his well considered opinion, knowing quite well as he did of how the White House and its myriad agencies functioned in those days of Mr. Nixon's imperial presidency.

The Government has commissioned a well-known historian to write the history of the 1971 war, not merely of the successful military operations but also the intense diplomatic activity that went into it. This exhaustive study, base on official records of the Prime Minister's Secretariat, the Ministries of External Affairs and Defence, and the operational plans of the three Services, will throw adequate light when completed on the nature and extent of the U.S. tilt, the reasons for signing the treaty with the Soviet Union, the steps taken to create in the West a fuller awareness of the true magnitude of the human tragedy that had befallen Bangladesh and how India's choices in dealing with this monumental problem were systematically narrowed down to the single alternative of a military solution by the obduracy of the Yahya Khan regime and the culpability of the U.S. in backing it to the hilt against all canons of justice.

But the Government need not wait for the completion of this work to disclose the more important details of what happened to repudiate the malicious charge that the Nixon-Kissinger tilt was based on Cabinet leakages of India's plans to destroy Pakistan. The Prime Minister or the Home Minister could intervene, when the charges levelled against Mr. Desai are raised in Parliament, not only to set the record straight, but also tell the Indian public of the kind of psychological warfare to which they are being exposed increasingly these days by both the superpowers to condition their reflexes and influence their thinking through disinformation.

The distorted and disjointed version of 1971 events given by Seymour Hersh in his book deals only with one aspect of the Nixon-Kissinger role and it is not possible to expose the totality of the harm this evil combination tried to do in that dark hour unless the Government of India comes out with the full facts in its possession.

Magnified

The other issues that are going to generate some heat during this session include the AIR vs. NTR episode, which has revived the controversy over how the Centre has been using radio and television as captive official media to subserve the interests of the ruling party and the governments run by it. A lot of harsh things has already been said in the press comments on this

unfortunate event, and much more will be said when the issue is raised in Parliament. The ham-handed and totally unimaginative manner in which the I and B bureaucracy has handled it has magnified this controversy into an issue of Centre-State relations. The attempt of the Opposition will be to make the Sarkaria Commission take cognisance of it.

The Government has been equally unimaginative in handling the question of non-resident investment in India, another controversial issue that is bound to be raised in Parliament during this session. The earlier intention was to encourage the inflow of Indian capital held abroad for productive purposes through tax incentives. But as it turned out the concessions are sought to be misused by some politically influential non-resident Indians for takeover of established Indian companies, not establishment of new enterprises.

Vague

The definition of non-resident has been left so vague, either deliberately or otherwise, that in theory it includes any foreign national of Indian origin, not only Indian businessmen living abroad with foreign passports but even Pakistani or Bangladeshi citizens born in the subcontinent before Independence when they were all deemed to be Indian citizens.

It is astonishing how a government has allowed itself to be exploited by persons of Indian origin who have accepted foreign citizenship to divert even funds controlled or borrowed by foreign companies in which they do not have even a majority interest to make a bid to take over well-run Indian enterprises. The Finance Minister may have to answer all these questions in Parliament during this session since the controversy came into the open only after the budget session. The Opposition has been attributing motives because of the vagaries of official policy and the ambivalent way the Ministers concerned and officials have gone about giving these speculators the benefit of doubt.

The root cause of the deep distrust that has developed over the years between the Government and the Opposition is the readiness of both sides to believe anything that is said about each other with or without any justification. No parliamentary democracy can function in an atmosphere of such ill-will and suspicion, least of all in a society like India in a state of constant flux burdened with a heavy backlog of problems. And it is necessary to devise stricter institutional checks and balance to make it possible for both sides to work together even from their entrenched position with a measure of mutual trust without imagining the worst about each other's intentions.

CSO: 4600/1480

PRESS REPORTS OUTCOME OF RAO VISIT TO IRAN

Joint Commission Established

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 20 Jul 83 p 1

[Text] TEHERAN, July 19 (UNI)--India and Iran set up a joint commission today with both countries affirming their desire to diversify trade relations and to reduce dependence on superpowers.

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said at the outset that his country considered India to be in an 'outstanding position' for developing trade ties within the Third World and that India could provide to Iran technological, scientific and other assistance 'on a long-term basis'. He pointed out that a few years ago, Iran conducted only seven per cent of its trade with the Third World. Today, this has grown to 27 per cent.

External Affairs Minister P V Narasimha Rao, who co-chairs the joint commission along with Dr Velayati, said that there was great scope for 'diversifying and enriching our relations for common welfare'.

The terms of reference of the commission were signed by Mr Rao and Mr Velayati and immediately after a plenary meeting was held. Three subcommissions, on economic, trade and cultural exchanges, were set up which began deliberations in the afternoon.

A second plenary meeting of the joint commission would be held on Friday at which the basic agreement of the two sides to diversify trade would be finalised and signed.

Indications are that the Iranian side has already accepted the Indian position that the imbalance of trade, which favoured Iran ten to one, should be corrected to the extent possible. A main item being negotiated in this regard is that Iran should supply oil to India against payment and give it 60 days for it as stipulated by the eight-member Asian Clearing Union (ACU).

Iran is also likely to agree to India paying in rupees for the Iranian crude. This would greatly correct the trade imbalance between the two countries.

India's imports from Iran are worth about Rs 1,300 crore annually whereas its exports to this country fetches about Rs 130 crore.

Iran is reported to be keen on getting Indian experts in the fields of medical, engineering and agricultural services.

Indian assistance in areas such electricity, roads, railways, and ports would also be considered.

Negotiations for the sale of Indian basmati rice and sugar are in the final stages.

Speaking at a dinner in his honour by the Iranian Foreign Minister Mr Rao said "the harmony between our nations today derives not only from melodies silvered by time, there are fresher strands of song in our symphony."

He added that there was still more than "we can discover and that is the quest of our joint commission is all about."

Mr Rao said India and Iran could strive for closer cooperation which must, of necessity, underpin "our hopes for a better world."

Recalling the ancient ties between the two countries, he said the history of Iran and India was like a "carpet of extraordinary beauty and many patterns. To many of us in India who have, in some way or another, been exposed to Iran's literary and cultural heritage, it is easier to assert that so much in common has grown between us down the centuries".

"This great achievement of the past should make us humble and a little more aware of our responsibilities to ourselves today and to our history. We have to build on the sound foundations built by previous generations which have endured through time", Mr Rao added.

Welcoming Mr Rao at the airport earlier Mr Vilayati said he was keenly looking forward to the talks between the two sides.

Mr Rao told newsmen that "something very positive and encouraging" might emerge from his visit, primarily aimed at reviving the Indo-Iranian Joint Commission.

Mr Rao is accompanied by a 10-member strong inter-ministerial team, the first to visit Iran after the 1979 revolution.

Press Conference on Return

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 24 Jul 83 p 12

[Text] NEW DELHI, July 23--IRAN has agreed to start lifting from next year iron-ore concentrate from the Kudremukh plant.

The Indo-Iranian joint commission, which met in Tehran this week, has thus paved the way for a comprehensive agreement on this complex issue and it is expected that the remaining problems with regard to quantity, prices and delivery schedule will be sorted out when the Iranian commerce minister visits this country in September.

Talking to reporters on his return from a five-day visit to Iran, the external affairs minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, said there had been "some forward movement" regarding the Kudremukh project, though some issues had remained to be finalised.

The 660-million-dollar Kudremukh project was set up exclusively for exporting iron-ore to Iran but difficulties cropped up because the steel production plan of that country underwent a drastic change.

Mr. Rao said he had very useful and friendly discussions with Iranian leaders on the situation in West Asia. The question of Iran-Iraq war was also touched upon. A press statement issued at the end of his visit in Tehran does not make any reference to the Gulf war, although it talks about West Asia, Afghanistan and African situation.

Bilateral Trade

However, the basic purpose of Mr. Rao's visit was to promote bilateral economic co-operation. Iran agreed not to exclude its oil exports from the purview of the Asian clearing union, of which both the countries are members. When the new arrangement comes into force, payments for Iranian oil will be credited in the Indian currency for a period of 60 days. Rupee funds will thus be generated for Iran to import Indian goods.

A spokesman of the external affairs ministry said today that there was considerable potential for the export of Indian engineering goods to Iran. The Iranian side had taken note of India's adverse balance of trade with that country, he added.

The joint press statement specifically referred to the industries, including ceramics, cement, asbestos, textiles, pharmaceuticals, transportation, power generation and instrumentation, for increased co-operation between the two countries.

According to the statement, both countries reiterated their stand for the withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan, and the Iranian foreign minister, Dr. Ali Akbar Velayati, also said that Iran "repudiates" negotiations in which the real representatives of the Muslim people of Afghanistan had not had any part.

On the West Asian situation, they demanded the withdrawal of Israelis from the occupied Arab territories and called for the setting up of an independent state of Palestine.

CSO: 4600/1471

HINDU ANALYST REPORTS PARLIAMENT SESSION OPENING

Madras THE HINDU in English 26 Jul 83 p 1

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text] NEW DELHI, July 25--The monsoon session of Parliament, which opened today on a stormy note with the biggest downpour of the season, reflected in every sense the mounting ill-will and deepening distrust between the ruling Congress (I) and the Opposition.

The divided Opposition which is united only in its antipathy towards the Congress (I) fired the first shot with a vehement protest against the installation of metal detectors as part of the new security regulations at Parliament House--a prelude to fiercer onslaughts on the government over more important issues during this session.

The Opposition parties objected strongly to these security measures because these brought to memory similar curbs during the Emergency which still serves as a painful reminder of how such seemingly innocuous restraints could rapidly lead step by step to more objectionable limitations on freedom even in a democratic system. The Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Mr. Balram Jakhar, and the Leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, who sensed the indignant mood of the members, offered to convene a meeting of the party leaders to reconsider the new security regulations.

Walk-out: After the Lok Sabha adjourned for the day without transacting any business as a mark of respect to the memory of the former Speaker, Hukam Singh, who died recently, the battle scene shifted to the Rajya Sabha where the Opposition parties with the exception of the AIADMK staged a walk-out in protest against the imposition of President's Rule in Pondicherry, when the Government sought to lay on the table of the House the text of the order issued by the President.

The Lok Sabha, too, had its share of excitement, before it adjourned for the day, when a Congress (K) member, Mr. Jagdish Tytler, tried to accost a newly elected member of the National Conference of Jammu and Kashmir, Mr. Abdul Rashid Kabli, who was proceeding to take the oath, with what seemed to be a garland of ballot papers that was symbolic of the Congress (I) charge of large-scale rigging in these elections. The Speaker, no doubt, admonished

the Congress (I) member for his highly objectionable conduct as the entire Opposition rose in protest, but strangely enough there was not a word of disapproval from the Government.

After these opening encounters in both the Houses, the Rajya Sabha took up the Punjab issue with a suo motu statement by the Home Minister, Mr. P. C. Sethi, on the Akali agitation. But neither the Government nor the Opposition had anything new to say on the subject that could help to end the present impasse leading to an early resumption of the renegotiations. The two sides merely went through the motions of restating their known positions.

The tempers remained ruffled on either side by what the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, has been saying about the role of the Opposition parties in exacerbating the tensions in Punjab and the counter-allegations of the Opposition that the government was bent on prolonging the agony to suit its narrow political interests in the State. If what was said by the two sides in the Rajya Sabha today was only a dress rehearsal for the bigger debate in the Lok Sabha, it looked as though both of them were running out of ideas and, what is worse, the will to find an early solution to the Akali problem before further damage was done to Hindu-Sikh relations.

Refreshing feature: A refreshing feature of the persisting differences among the Opposition parties was the refusal of some of them to go along with the rest in politicising the controversy over the appointment of the new Army chief by raising the issue in Parliament. But they continued to maintain an appearance of unanimity over many other issues that are going to figure prominently during this session.

The agreed strategy for stepping up the pressures on the Government will be followed in a broad measure which was quite evident from the way all the Opposition parties lent support in the Rajya Sabha today to the demand for a discussion on the recent AIR vs NTR controversy. What was equally reassuring was the readiness with which the Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Mr. H. K. L. Bhagat, agreed to have the debate so that he could give the government's version.

A sad shortcoming on the part of the Government is that, with all its massive majority in Parliament, it is unable to display the kind of initiative required for forestalling adverse criticism by coming forward with fuller facts. It tends to place itself unwittingly on the defensive all the time even when the ruling party has a better case capable of carrying conviction.

And this chronic inhibition was very much in evidence today when no senior Minister including the Prime Minister intervened to set the right tone for the session by sensing the mood of the Opposition without merely deplored its obstructionism.

UNI reports:

For the first time, metal detectors have been installed at all the four major entrances to Parliament House to tighten security arrangements. As members,

pressmen and visitors streamed in security men were keeping a close watch on the detectors.

In some cases, where the metal detector gave out humming tones, the persons concerned had to display the metallic objects they were carrying, including car keys, before they were permitted into the building.

There was a heavy downpour from 10 a.m., an hour before the Houses commenced their deliberations.

CSO: 4600/1485

INDIA

INDIA TO DOUBLE TRADE TURNOVER WITH DPRK

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 26 Jul 83 p 7

[Text] North Korea has agreed to buy from India for the first time minerals like high and low carbon manganese and ferro chrome to double the trade turnover between the two countries from the present Rs 35 crores to Rs 70 crores.

According to the agreement finalised on Monday, the proposed increase will conform to the needs of mutual advantage and also to promoting economic cooperation among developing countries.

The agreed record of discussions was finalised between a delegation headed by Commerce Secretary Abid Hussain and a visiting DPRK delegation led by Mr Li Song Lok, Vice Minister of Foreign Trade.

DPRK will also buy 40,000 tonnes of sugar, 10,000 tonnes of cotton linter, 10,000 tonnes of deoiled groundnut extraction and 50,000 tonnes of salt. The visiting delegation also agreed reconsider import of textile machinery, marine diesel engines, sports goods, pesticides and insecticides.

In return the visiting delegation has offered to export to India larger quantities of cement, zinc, steel plats, railway wheels, axles, tyres, hot roll steel sheets.

It has also agreed to export for the first time to India rayon yarn, viscose staple fibre, forcelain insulators above 22KV ratings, vinyl chloride.

CSO: 4600/1486

BRIEFS

KNITWEAR TO USSR--The Soviet Union has signed an agreement for import of woolen knitwears worth Rs 22 crores from India, reports PTI. The agreement was signed in Delhi on Thursday between the USSR purchase organisation and the Wool and Woollens Export Promotion Council. Mr I L Oswal, chairman of the council, said in a press release on Thursday that the orders had to be executed before October this year. The orders has come at a time when the entire woollen industry in Ludhiana has been passing through severe recessionary condition. USSR is the single largest importer of woollen products from India. Last year, it imported knitwears worth Rs 70 crores which was nearly 85 per cent of the country's total knitwear exports. [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 16 Jul 83 p 7]

NEW GUJARAT PARTY--AHMEDABAD, July 17 (PTI)--"Jai Ramrajya", a new regional party, has been formed in Gujarat by Shambhu Maharaj, religious leader, for safeguarding the interests of the country, the countrymen and the Hindu religion. A protagonist of a ban on cow-slaughter, Shambhu Maharaj said, while announcing the launching of the party at a press conference here today, that the party would contest 35 to 50 assembly seats and five Lok Sabha seats in the forthcoming elections. He would head the party but would not contest the elections, he clarified. Shambhu Maharaj, who has been giving discourses in "Mahabharat" all over the state, said the party itself would raise funds for election expenses and the party candidates would not be called upon to contribute anything towards the expenses unless a candidate himself was capable and willing to spend. [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 18 Jul 83 p 7]

MIZORAM GOVERNOR--HYDERABAD, July 18--Mr. Hari Shankar Dhube has been appointed Lt. Governor of Mizoram and Mr. T. V. Rajeshwar Lt. Governor of Arunachal Pradesh with effect from the date they assume charge. Mr. Rajeshwar is now director of the intelligence bureau. [Madras THE HINDU in English 19 Jul 83 p 9]

DELIMITATION OF CONSTITUENCIES--NEW DELHI, July 19--The Centre plans to expedite the formalities for the fresh delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly constituencies so that the entire process is concluded well before the next Lok Sabha elections. The Union Cabinet decided upon fresh delimitation earlier this month because of insistent demands from various quarters for removing the imbalances resulting from population growth. The Law Ministry is currently working on the draft of a Bill for amending the Constitution to

provide for the rationalisation of constituencies. The idea was to seek Parliament's approval in the forthcoming session. The re-delimitation exercise was cumbersome and time-consuming but the purpose of the Cabinet would be lost, it was pointed out, if the rationalisation process was not completed before the coming elections. [Madras THE HINDU in English 20 Jul 83 p 1]

THIRD ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION--HYDERABAD, July 23 (PTI)--Two women scientists from the National Institute of Oceanography (NIC), Goa, would join the third Indian expedition to Antarctica leaving early October, according to the director-general of Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Dr. G. S. Sidhu. "A permanent station of our own would probably be set up by the end of the fourth trip." One scientist had already been stationed in Antarctica to study various factors for such a station, Dr. Sidhu told reporters here. The third expedition team might be three times larger than the first expedition team, he said. Analysis of most of the studies carried out on the earlier expeditions had shown highly encouraging results, he added. The CSIR laid emphasis on oceanography by mapping resources for "optimum utilisation of both living and non-living resources that the ocean offers to us," Dr. Sidhu said. The International Seabed Authority has recognised India as "pioneer investor" (one of the very few countries to have legal authority for seabed mining like the U.S., France and others. [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 24 Jul 83 p 12]

PACT WITH AUSTRALIA--India and Australia on Tuesday signed a memorandum of understanding for promoting scientific and technical cooperation in agriculture and animal sciences between the two countries, reports UNI. The agreement would cover exchange of genetic material of animal and vegetable origin, soils, chemical and biological products and technical data and publications. It would also include organisation of joint research projects, symposia and technical and scientific discussions. The memorandum, which is in pursuance of the Indo-Australian agreement of February 1975, was signed in Delhi by Director General of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) Dr O P Gautam and Australian High Commissioner G N Upton. The activities would be carried out in accordance with a biennial work plan. A joint committee would be established which would biennially meet in India and Australia to review progress in the implementation of the agreement. [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 20 Jul 83 p 5]

MOSCOW HEALTH MEETING--An Indian delegation, headed by Health Secretary S S Sidhu, left for Moscow on Tuesday to participate in the first session of the Standing Committee on cooperation in public health and medicine between India and the Soviet Union. The two sides are expected to discuss various issues identified and enumerated in the cooperation plan which was signed by the two countries representatives in 1980. Some of the important subjects that will be discussed are: communicable diseases, immunology, vaccine production, blood and other related issues. Director General Health Services Dr D B Bisht and Indian Council of Medical Research director general Dr V Ramalingaswami are the other members of the delegation. [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 20 Jul 83 p 5]

CONGRESS-I COMMITTEE MEETING--NEW DELHI, July 20 (PTI)--The All-India Congress committee (I) will meet in Bombay from October 7 to 9, it was officially announced here today. Making the announcement, the party general secretary, Mr. C. M. Stephen, told newsmen that the working committee would meet on October 7 and the open session would be held for the next two days. Mr. Stephen said the session was last held in Delhi in December, 1980. Mr. Murli Deora, Bombay Congress (I) president, who was also present at the press conference, said preparatory work had already started. The session would be held at the Shanmukhananda Hall, which was the venue of the 1961 Congress session, he added. [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 21 Jul 83 p 1]

CASE AGAINST CHAUHAN--NEW DELHI, July 23--The Central Bureau of Investigation today registered a case under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, against Dr. Jagjit Singh Chauhan, the self-styled president of Khalistan. In filing the first information report in the court of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate of Delhi, the CBI has sought to empower itself with the authority to arrest Dr. Chauhan if he tried to return to India to carry on his unlawful activities preaching secession. The FIR named Britain, the U.S. and West Germany among other countries where Dr. Chauhan has committed the offence of preaching secession of a part of India which was punishable under the 1967 Act. Though his passport has been withdrawn and the Government has been exerting pressure on various countries to deny him entry and restrain him from carrying on these objectionable activities, no case as such has so far been registered against him. [Madras THE HINDU in English 24 Jul 83 p 1]

TIN BIGHA CASE--Mr T. K. Biswas appearing for Mr Sugandha Ray and others before Mr Justice B. C. Basak of Calcutta High Court concluded his arguments in reply in the Tin Bigha case on Thursday. Arguments were made by Mr Gopal Chakraborty on behalf of Mr Nirmal Sengupta, general secretary, All India Forward Bloc. The hearing was concluded and judgment reserved. Mrs Biswas said that in the affidavit the Union of India had made out a case of lease in perpetuity. The 1974 agreement between Mujibur Rehman and Mrs Indira Gandhi clearly stated that to connect Dahagram with Panbari, both in Bangladesh, India would grant lease in perpetuity to Bangladesh the "Tin Bigha" and the agreement was subject to ratification by both the Governments. It was admitted by the Solicitor General that the agreement was not ratified. In view of this submission, Mr Biswas contended that the agreement had no binding force and the Nehru-Noor agreement, to implement which the Constitution (Ninth Amendment) Act was passed, was binding upon the Union of India and the Court was bound to enforce the same. He cited a Supreme Court case in support of his contention. The subsequent correspondence setting out the terms by the two Foreign Ministers in 1982 was sought to be interpreted by the Solicitor General as licence and not lease. This was pointed out by Mr Biswas as untenable in law and facts of the case. [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 30 Jul 83 p 7]

CSO: 4600/1490

PROSECUTOR GENERAL DISCUSSES DOMESTIC ISSUES DURING INTERVIEW

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 29 Aug 83 pp 17, 19

[Interview with Revolution Prosecutor General Hojjat ol-Eslam Hoseyn Musavi-Tabrizi by KEYHAN; date and place not specified]

Seyyed Khandan, KEYHAN correspondent: In an exclusive interview with KEYHAN emphasizing that today the government is strong and unafraid of opposition, Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Hoseyn Musavi, the revolution prosecutor general, announced: Even opponents have the right to criticize; we consider it a preliminary step to the perfection of the Islamic Republic. On the whole, criticism without conspiracy is by no means objectionable.

In this interview, Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavi-Tabrizi pointed out that the Prosecutor's Office has no objection to such criticism on the part of the Nehzat-e Azadi in its pamphlets. Concerning the Hojjatiyyeh Society, he explained that if they want to resume their activities, they must obtain permission from the Ministry of Interior in accordance with the law governing parties.

The revolution prosecutor general said: If we feel the release of prisoners is no threat to the Islamic Republic, we will release all of them, which is the opinion of the revered imam.

In this interview, the revolution prosecutor general responded to questions concerning the trial of the treacherous Tudeh Party leaders, the main figures of the hypocrites and the situation with regard to the majority group and said: After so many martyrs, we will not allow the slightest action in favor of monarchism in the country.

The question was put: The imam said in a visit with the members of the intelligence unit of the Guards Corps, "The Tudeh Party members must also be tried, like all sinners, and receive their punishment"; what decision has the Prosecutor's Office made? In response, he said:

In the name of God the compassionate and the merciful. Apparently, the imam's statement was very natural, since the cases of these treacherous elements are nearly completed, and, God willing, they will be tried. Some information was given to the imam in connection with these cases and he was asked for instructions, which is why he said that they must be tried. Perhaps some foreign counterrevolutionary individuals hope to spread rumors that we do not want to try them because of foreign pressure. Now, this is a tough answer for them to swallow when we say that such is not the case, but that once the cases have been prepared--God willing, perhaps soon, in the near future--we will try them.

Activities of the Hojjatiyyeh Society

We asked the revolution prosecutor general for the opinion of the Revolution Prosecutor General's Office concerning the Hojjatiyyeh Society and whether the members of this Society will be prosecuted if they continue their activities. He said:

The members of the Hojjatiyyeh Society are no different from other individuals in the view of the Prosecutor's Office. If they engage in counterrevolutionary activities, espionage or, God forbid, conspiracy against the Islamic Republic, the Revolution Prosecutor's Office is responsible to stop them, as it is all minigroups. We do not foresee such an occurrence, given the fact that they announced that they will no longer have any activities. If they should have activities, given this announcement, they will be illegal. If they want to resume their activities, they must obtain a permit from the Ministry of Interior in accordance with the law governing parties. Otherwise, their activities will be illegal and subject to prosecution.

The revolution prosecutor general was asked: A paragraph in the bylaws of the Hojjatiyyeh Society states that the Hojjatiyyeh Society will not be abolished or closed down until the appearance of the Imam. Therefore, in your opinion, will they not carry out any activities?

In response to this question, he said: Yes, that is true. In my opinion, this question must be put to them. Apparently they say that they have not closed down the Society and that, for the present time, they are engaged in no activities. And, apparently that is the case. It would be appropriate for them to give an answer. In any case, if they do engage in activities, such would be considered unlawful by the Prosecutor's Office and they would be prosecuted unless they were to first obtain a permit from the Ministry of Interior.

Activities of the Nehzat-e Azadi

The question was asked: Nehzat-e Azadi-ye Iran has been engaged in publishing a series of critical issues since a few months ago. Considering the widespread nature of these activities, is the publication of pamphlets so critical of the Islamic Republic allowed by any group or individual?

The revolution prosecutor general said in response to this question: Here we must consider two issues. First, criticism is by no means objectionable in the view of the Islamic Republic if there is no conspiracy involved. We accept such criticism and even consider it a preliminary step to the perfection of the Islamic Republic and the elimination of problems. There must be criticism. But, if this criticism is coupled with conspiracy and provocation of the people and if ordinary people are slandered, this must be investigated by the Prosecutor's Office of the Justice Department. If they accuse the important personalities of the Islamic Republic, slander them and provoke the people against the authorities of the Republic, then this falls within the jurisdiction of the Revolution Prosecutor's Office, which must investigate the problem as a conspiracy. In connection with the Nehzat-e Azadi as well, it is not that that we do not see their pamphlets. We see them; we know the content and know that some of it is unjust and incorrect. The Prosecutor's Office has no objection to their continuing in this vein. If they do not make any accusations or engage in provoking the people against the Islamic Republic, it makes no difference to us whether it is the Nehzat-e Azadi or anyone else.

Prohibition of Baha'i Activities

We asked: Every once in a while, the international news agencies protest against the Islamic Republic of Iran executing Baha'is. Does the Revolution Prosecutor's Office not intend to react to this?

The revolution prosecutor general said in this regard: In practice, we have no desire to and will not respond. All we can and do do is to explain to individuals who are truly in doubt and really do not understand why some of these are executed.

The imperialist news accuses us of executing people for being Baha'is. We have explained the issue and have informed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that it should officially announce that there are many Baha'is in Iran today and we do not execute or arrest them for being Baha'is. But, some of them are spies. We have many documents from the Baha'i organization which indicate that they provide information to foreigners, engage in espionage for others, engage in provocation and disruption in certain affairs and sometimes collect financial contributions to

send abroad. Recently, you witnessed that Peykan spare parts were discovered in several warehouses. It was said that they had been instructed by an organization to hoard and collect them. Such issues have caused us to announce at the present time that all Baha'i group and organizational activities are prohibited in Iran, which has been the case thus far. The government of the Islamic Republic and the Constitution do not recognize them. I must say that since some of them who were arrested said that their activities were not announced as prohibited and that that is why they carried out activities, I announce today that due to the disruptions and deviations carried out by the Baha'i organization, this organization is considered belligerent and conspiratorial by the Islamic Republic in the view of the Revolution Prosecutor's Office and all activities in their interest are strictly forbidden. Now, if someone is a Baha'i, performs his religious duties according to his own beliefs, does not invite others to Baha'ism, does not proselytize, does not engage in activities, does not organize meetings, does not provide others with information and is not active in the organization, we will leave him alone. Not only will we not execute him, but we will not even jail him. He may participate in gatherings, but if he wants to engage in organizational work, this is, in general, prohibited and is a crime, because this organization is belligerent and conspiratorial and these individuals are considered belligerent.

The question was put: Recently, the monarchists have begun widespread activities against the Islamic Republic abroad; has the Revolution Prosecutor's Office encountered related activities in the country and have people been arrested in this connection? To which he responded:

One should not comment on these activities, but, well, we know that there are a number of monarchist conspirators and functionaries who nurture the idea of following a monarchy. If there are activities, we confront them decisively. After so many martyrs--about 100,000--and so many disabled and wounded people and the efforts of the people, we will not allow the slightest activity in the interest of the shah, monarchism, the functionaries of the United States, or foreigners and colonializers in this country. Anyone who engages in such activities will have to face the nation. Thank God the Hezbollah nation is strong, as are the agents and officials of the Revolution Prosecutor's Office.

The Revolution Prosecutor's Office will itself confront such individuals decisively.

We asked Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavi-Tabrizi: Has Mr Ghazanfarpur, the former representative to the Majlis who was arrested for cooperation with Bani-Sadr, been tried? He said in this regard:

Before being tried and after having been in prison for some time, considering his extensive cooperation with our brothers and for secret reasons which were in his file, he was released on condition and is now free.

The question was asked: Have the participants in the television gathering a few nights ago--in addition to Ahmad Taherzadeh and Monireh Rajavi, the military officials of the hypocrites organization--been tried and if so, what was the verdict? The revolution prosecutor general responded:

Some have been tried and some have not. Those who have been tried were given prison sentences and the trials of those who have not yet been tried will begin soon.

Visits of Prisoners' Families

We asked: In the past, special facilities were created on your instructions for visits to the prisoners by their families. Recently, it has been said that these facilities have been reduced and some of the families have not been granted permission after several months. In the light of these claims, have you made any new decision in this regard?

The revolution prosecutor general said in response to this question: No, such is not the case. The same visiting times are being granted and there is no problem except in the case of individuals who have just been arrested, because the cases must be kept secret at one stage. When the interrogator feels that a case must be kept secret, visits are prohibited. Two, three or four months later, visits might be granted. This is not true in every case. There are some who are arrested one day and granted visits within two to five days.

The revolution prosecutor general was asked: Affiliated news elements throughout the world have begun extensive propaganda concerning the number of counterrevolutionary and minigroup prisoners. Could you please tell us how many prisoners there are in this connection?

The revolution prosecutor general said: No matter what number of prisoners we have, these imperialist elements will not be satisfied. No matter how many prisoners we have in connection with the security of the country, we will still confront them and we will not allow a number of people, witting or unwitting functionaries, to threaten the security of the country. We have nothing to fear from the number of prisoners we have. By exaggerating the number of prisoners, they want to make us submit to the idea that if a number of people pour into the streets we should keep quiet about it. We will protect the Republic at all cost and will not allow the agents of others to create chaos in

the country. Of course, we take into consideration those who have received guidance in prisons and whom we are certain that upon release will be harmless, those whom we are sure have changed their positions in prison and who accept the Islamic Republic seriously. But, of course, we take our time to investigate them. Those who are at this stage, whose release would be harmless and actually in the best interests of the Islamic Republic will be freed. This is the view of the imam and the authorities.

We asked: Concerning the television gathering showing the repentance of the minigroup members for their actions, does the Revolution Prosecutor's Office have a special plan to pardon these individuals? The revolution prosecutor answered:

Yes, the Revolution Prosecutor's Office is taking this issue into account, as are the authorities and, as I have said, the imam as well. Now, as it stands, they are guilty and have been proven guilty to our satisfaction. However, if it is proven to us that they are no longer a threat--and, God willing, such may be proven in the case of many of them--once investigations have been made, they will be freed.

Fighting Hoarding and Over Pricing

We asked Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavi-Tabrizi: Concerning the statements of the prime minister, we were expecting a special emergency program as a result of which the price hikers and hoarders would be severely punished. What is the reason for the delay in implementing this program and, essentially, has the Revolution Prosecutor's Office made new decisions in this regard or will it carry on as in the past?

The revolution prosecutor general said in response to this question:

There has been no delay in the work at all. From the time that the issue was placed within the jurisdiction of the Revolution Prosecutor's Office, the special prosecutor's office for guild-related affairs has been completely active. Its headquarters has been strengthened, a special headquarters has also been established and some of the ministries have been asked to assist. In regards to the hoarders and price hikers, in all cities, drastic measures are being taken. Reports coming through the headquarters are being thoroughly investigated. The honorable Shar' magistrate knows that this is not merely a welfare or profiteering issue. It is political as well. Those who engage in such actions want to besmirch the Islamic Republic and inflict harm. For this reason, instructions and circulars were distributed. Recently, we have again had another circular stipulating that those who engage in price hiking, in addition to

being subject to monetary penalties and imprisonment, will be reported to the ministries and, from then on, they will not receive any goods.

The revolution prosecutor general added: Of course, in this area, again, we need the help of the people very much. The information provided by the people is very important. Those who pay more but are not prepared to report the price hikers are in fact serving the price hikers and hoarders. The people should help in this regard, provide us with complete reports and not bolster hoarding, hoarders and price hikers.

The question was asked: What is the procedure for distribution of the hoarded goods confiscated by the Revolution Prosecutor's Office throughout the country?

The revolution prosecutor general said in this connection: The distribution of confiscated goods will be coordinated through the Ministry of Commerce with the cooperation of the cooperatives throughout the country.

We asked: Some of the merchants have asked for a clarification of the regulations and conditions regarding hoarding and price hiking. For instance, some of them suggest that every merchant needs a warehouse, but having goods in the warehouse should not be considered hoarding. What is your opinion in this regard and when will these regulations be announced? The revolution prosecutor general answered:

Of course, these are regulations which can be announced by the Ministry of Commerce and which do not concern the Revolution Prosecutor's Office. The Revolution Prosecutor's Office only decides whether an item should or should not have stayed in the warehouse and whether it should have been made available to the people. These are issues with which the people are very familiar: goods which have been collected--for instance, rice which has been collected and stored in a warehouse--and then someone has opened a shop and made it available to the people, selling it little by little. There are instances of persons having stored items for one or two months, not made them available to the people and not wanted to sell them at a fair price. Then, when they are caught, they say that they wanted to sell them in five months. This is clearly hoarding and they had hoped to, for instance, find a better black market and sell at a huge profit.

The Issue of Veiling

The question was asked: After the communique of the Revolution Prosecutor's Office of the capital concerning the issue of veiling, the patrol officers arrested violators and took them to

Evin Prison. Is this still going on as before or are people being sent to the Justice Department to complete their files?

The revolution prosecutor said in this regard: Of course, individuals who do not follow veiling are of two kinds. In one case, they have disregarded veiling and they can be guided. It is necessary for the officials and the people to guide them so that they do not openly violate Islamic laws, now that almost five years have passed since the establishment of the Islamic Republic.

Some others want to demonstrate their opposition to the Republic in this way, in which case it becomes a political issue. When they are guided, they become angry and react to the Guard Corps officials.

These people must be taken to Evin Prison. Of course, we have given instructions for them to expedite affairs there, so that when, for instance, someone has been sent there by mistake who can be guided, they would not have to wait long and the case would be investigated quickly.

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PAKISTAN

FEDERAL BUDGET CRITICIZED FOR ADDING TO COMMON MAN'S BURDEN

Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 12 Jun 83 p 3

[Editorial: "Federal Budget--What Did the Common Man Achieve?"]

[Excerpt] Federal Minister of Commerce Ghulam Ishaq Khan presented the new budget to the helpless Advisory Council, whose members travel first class in planes and trains and get fat daily allowances, gathered in Islamabad from all corners of the country merely to listen to a 2-hour budget speech by the minister. This meeting of the helpless Advisory Council concluded immediately after the speech with no word of criticism from the council. This presentation of the budget to the Advisory Council cannot even be termed an interesting drama!

The average travel expense for one Advisory Council member to participate in the meeting would run from 3,000 to 4,000 rupees. How many hundreds of thousands of rupees, therefore, were spent on hundreds of Advisory Council members to attend this 2-hour meeting? It is not difficult to make this estimate. Nevertheless, at this exorbitant price, besides listening to the budget speech through radio and television, what did the nation achieve? Just some applause and a few slogans of shame, shame! What a heavy price the minister of commerce made the national treasury pay just for a few expressions of appreciation and reproach on his speech! What a way to economize and save--God alone is without blemish!! If the purpose was to make the Advisory Council members listen to the speech, they could have listened to it, like their countrymen, in their respective homes on radio and television!! Why the fuss of the Advisory Council meeting for this?

What does this budget offer? Who got what from it? The answers to these questions are both positive and negative for individuals on various levels with diverse interests. The answers to these questions, for some sectors, would definitely be positive and for other sectors, only negative. For example, what does this budget offer to those earning a monthly income of 1,000 rupees or less, and what do they get from it? The answer for this sector is negative and negative only. For example, if these people travel by train, they will have to pay 15 percent more even for the lowest class. If they want to write to their relatives, they will get a 40-paisas envelope for 60 paisas. For registered letters and parcels, they will have to pay approximately

double. If a gas stove is being used at home, there will be a 12.5-percent increase in the price of fuel. If they choose walls for a cement-roofed house, they will have to pay 5 rupees more for every bag of cement used, and proportionately extra for a cemented roof.

Just 1 week before Ramadan, these people of this sector suffered a blow due to the increase in the price of flour. As a result, all food items made with flour became expensive right during Ramadan. Now, 2 days prior to Ramadan, the budget made even a sip of juice expensive because in the budget, the minister of commerce levied a 5-percent duty on juice bottles. For this sector, even the use of dried fruit became unlawful during Ramadan, when a 20-percent sales tax was imposed on dried fruit. If a poor person of this sector extended hospitality to his guest with a drink, bread, chaliya, cigarette or tobacco, all these things became expensive as a result of this budget. What did this sector gain from this budget? Right now, during our brief study of this budget, we have found no clear-out answer to this question that might satisfy people in this bracket.

What did a person earning an income of more than 1,000 rupees and less than 1,500 rupees [per month] achieve? For this group, the only positive answer is that they have been relieved of income tax. However, the government will gain more than all the concessions granted by increasing train fares, postage, and the prices of gas, cement, drinks, chaliya, bread, cigarettes and tobacco. The answer, therefore, to this addition and subtraction is that even a person earning an income of more than 1,000 and less than 1,500 rupees gained nothing; actually, his burden has increased!

The question is who, then, gained anything from this budget. The bureaucratic government achieved the most. The white elephants of the railway were joyful. They gained an additional annual income of millions of rupees for their extravagances. In India, where the fare is half that in Pakistan, there are cushioned seats and numerous other benefits available in second class. In Pakistan, with double the fares, there is no electricity, fans or water, even though compared with India the distances here are shorter and the fuel expenses compared with those in India are three-fourths less. The minister of commerce has advised that the postal department has incurred a loss, and he has justified this loss by increasing postage. India, given its geographical distances, is a much bigger country than Pakistan. Everyone knows that there, postage on an envelope is 30 paisas. In India, where according to its population the postal department is many times bigger than the Pakistani postal department and where the distance between Amritsar and Das Kumari is almost 3,000-4,000 miles, there the postal department dispatches a letter 3,000 miles for 30 paisas. In our country, there is a charge of 60 paisas for sending a letter 1,250 miles. Why? Because whether it is the railroad or mail, the bureaucracy of both departments needs unlimited money to spend. In brief, if this budget has given something, it is the bureaucracy alone that got it!